THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

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At half past eight they drove out of the town
The highroad was dry a lovely April sun was

The inginosal was dry a lovely spirit sun was shrining warmly but the snow was still lying in the ditches and in the woods. Winter dark long, and spiteful was hardly over sping had come all of a sudden. But neither the warmth nor the langual transparent woods warmed by the breath of sping nor the black flocks of birds flying over the huge puddles that were like lakes nor the marvellous fathomless sky into which it seemed one would have gone away so joyfully presented anythin, new or interesting to Marya Vassilyevina, who was sutting in the cart. For thritern years she had been schoolmistress and there was no reckoning how many times during all those

anythin, new or interesting to Marya Vassilyevina, who was sitting in the cart. For thirteen years she had been schoolmistress and there was no reckoning how many times during all those years she had been to the town for her salary and whether it were spring as now or a rainy autumn evening or winter it was all the same to her and she always—invariably—longed for one thing only to get to the end of her journey as quickly as could be

She felt as though she had been living in that part of the country for ages and ages for a hundred years and it seemed to her that she knew every stone every tree on the road from the town to her

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school H past was here her present was here, and he uld un gine no other future than the chool the road to the town and back again and

a, ain the school and again the oad She h d got out of th habit of thinking of her past bel re she becam a schoolmistress, and had almost forgott n it She had o ce had a father and mother they h d li ed in Moscow in a big flat n ar the Red Gate, but f all that life there

was left in her memory nly something vague and fluid like a dream. Her fathe had died when she was ten years ld and h mother had died soon after She had a b the an officer t fi st they used to write t each other then h r brother had given up an wering her letters he had got out of the way of writing Of her old bel ngined all the t was I ft we a photograph f her mother but it had gr wn dim fr m th dampness of the school nd n w n thing ould be seen

but the hair and the y b ws

When they had drien a copl of miles old
Semyon, who was driving to ried round and said They hav ca ht ag v rnment cl rk in the

town They h e taken him aw . The tory is that with some German h kill d Al ex v the May in Moscow

Wh told you that? Thy wer reading tin the pipe in I an

Ionov's tavern A d abam they were il nt f a long tim

M y Vass ly vna th ght f her school of th
exam t n that was coming soon and of the gil

and four boys he was send: g p for it And just

Good mornin he said to her You are driving home I suppose

This Hanov a man of forty with a listless ex pression and a face that showed signs of wear was beginning to look old but was still handsome and admired by women. He lived in his big homestead alone and was not in the service and people used to say of him that he did nothing at home but walk up and down the room v histling or play chess with his old footman People said too that he drank heavily And indeed at the examination the year b fore the very papers he brought with him smelt of wine and scent He had been dressed all in ne clothes on that occa sion and Marya Vassilyevna thought him very attractive and all the while she sat beside him she had felt embarrassed. She was accustomed to see frigid and sensible examiners at the school ville this one did not remember a single prayer or know what to ask questions about and was exceedingly courteous and del cate giving nothing

but the highest marks
I am going to visit Bakvist he went on addressin Marya Vassilyevra but I am told

he is not at home

They turn d off the highroad into a by road to the village Hanov leading the way and

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Semyon f il wing The four horses moved at a walking pace with effort dragging the heavy carriage tho in the mud Semyon t cked from de to s d keeping to the edge of the road, at one

de to s d keeping to the edge of the road, at one time through sn wdrift at an their throu h a pool often jumping out f th cart and helping the horse Marya Vassilyevn was till thinking abo t the school w d n g wh ther th anthmetic questions at the examination ould be difficult or

questions at the examinat on ould be difficult or asy. And she felt ann y dw th the Z mst board at which h h df u dno on th day before. How unbusness-lke He he had b n sking them f the last two years t dismiss the "atchman who did noth g as rude t he and h: the

who did noth g as fuce he and h! the choolbops but no pard any att nt n It we hard t find the pred at at the office and when one did find he m he would say with a raw in his eyes thi the h dat a m me it is spar the mayer.

I have been a find a mean to the spar the mayer and ken who the spar of a most ne in three sake had been n the E o. Dute D partment and had cee du the post of school mapecto through influence. The School Council mit every rarely and there was n kn wing whe it met the school gua duan was an almost illit ate peasa t the head f tann bus es u intilligent rud and a great find fith a thiman pand goodness him sit with sit he did appeal

with complaints e quines

He really is handsom sh thought glaning at Han

The oad grwwers dwerse They droe note the wood H the w_s o come to turn

round the wheels sank deeply in water spla hed and gurgled through them and sharp twigs struck them in the face

What a road 1 said Hanov and he laughed

The schoolmistress looked at him and could not understand why this queer man lived here What could his money hi interesting appearance his re fined bearing do for him here in this mud in this God forsaken dreary place? He got no special advantages out of life and here like Semyon was driving at a jog trot on an appalling road and enduring the same discomforts. Why live here it one could live in Petersbirg or abroad? And one would have thought it would be nothing for a rich man like him to make a good road matead of this bad one to avoid enduring this misery and seeing the despair on the faces of his coachman and Semyon but he only laughed and apparently did not mind and v nted no better life. He was kind soft naive and h did not inderstand this coarse life just as at the examination he did not know the p ayers He subscr bed nothing to the school but globes and genuinely regarded himself cause of popular education And what use were his globes here?

his gloocs nere?
Hold on Vassilyevna said Semyon
The cart lurched violently and was on the point
of upsetting something heavy rolled on to Marya
Vassilyevna s feet—it was I er parcel of pu chases
There as a steep a cent uph Il it rough the clay
here in the winding d thes rivulets were gurgling
The water seemed to ha e gnawed away the road

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and how to ld on get along here The horses breathed hard Hano got out of his carriage and alked at the sid of the rad in his long over coat He was h t

What a road h said and lau hed again It wild oo sin hup s carriage

N body obli es you to dri e about in such

d Semyon surlily Y u should

st v t hom I am d ll at home grandfath I don t like stavi g at h me Bes de old S myon he looked gr ceful and

vigoro but y t h alk th e was mething just pe cept ble hah bet ay d n h m a bein already to ched by dec v veak d n the road t run And all at e th re was a h ff of prits in the ood Mr. Vas lye na was filled with dead and pty f them n ging to his run fo no visible au e r eason and it cam into her mind that f he h d b in his wife or sister sh would ha de ted h r whol life to saving him f m run His wf Lif as so o de ed th the hew Ivi gin has geath use alone and she was living in a G d frashen village alone and y t to some ason the me thought the the and he might be to eanother and equals seemed imposs bl and abs d In eality hi as arrang d and human rel ti ns were com plicat d so utterly bey nd all understanding that

wh n n th u, ht bout it ne f lt uncanny and A d t is beyond II is ders anding she thought why God gives b auty this gracious-

o hart sa k

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ness and sad sweet eyes to weak unlucky use less people—why they are so charming
Here we must turn off to the right said Hanov getting into his carriage Good bye !

I wish you all things good!

And again she thought of her pupils of the examination of the watchman of the School

Council and when the wind brought the sound of the retreating carriage these thoughts were mingled with others. She longed to think of beautiful eyes of love of the happiness which would never be His wife? It was cold in the morning there

was no one to heat the sto e the watchman disappeared the children came in as soon as it was light bringing in snow and mud and making a noise it was all so inconvenient so comfortless Her abode consisted of one little room and the kitchen close by Her head ached every day after her work and after dinner she had heart burn She had to collect money from the school children for wood and for the watchman and to give it to the school guardian and then to entreat him-that overfed insolent peasant-for God's sake to send her wood. And at night she dreamed of examinations peasants snowdrifts. And this life was makin, her grow old and coarse making her ugly angular and av kward, as though she were made of lead She was always afraid and she would get up from her seat and not venture Lemstvo or the school guardian. And she used formal deferential expressions when she spoke of

any one of them And no one thou ht her attract to, and lif was pas.in drearily without affection, with ut friendly sympathy without netrest in a reportion if h had fallen in love

Hold on Vassily ma

TO

Again a harp ascent uphill She had becom a schoolmistress from necessity without feeling any ocat n for t and she had n er th unht f a ocati n, f serving the cause of enli htenm nt and t al ys seemed to her that wh t was most important in her work was not the children, n enlightenment but th examina ti no And what tim had he f thinking of ocation, of serving the cause f end btenment? Teachers, badly paid doctors, and their assistants, with their terribly hard w L ha n t even the comfort f thinkir that they ar serving an dea or the peopl as their heads are always stuffed with thoughts of th ir daily bread of wood fo th fire, of bad oads, of illnesses It is a hard working an uninteresting life, and only silent, patient cart horses like Marya Va.silye na uld put up with it for long the h iv nerv is impressionabl people who talked about socati is and service th idea were soon weary of it and gav up the

Semyon kept pcki out the dnest and shortest way first by a meadow then by the backs f th 'llag h ts but in on place th peasants would not let them pass, in another t was the priest S land and they ould n t cros t in n ther I an Iono h d bow ht a p or f om th landowner and

ΤL

had dug a ditch round it. They kept having to turn back

They teached Nizhneve Gorodi tche Near the tavern on the dung strewn earth where the snow was still lying there stood waggons that had brought great bottles of crude sulphuric acid There were a great many people in the tavern all drivers and there was a smell of vodka tobacco and sheepskins There was a loud noise of con versation and the banging of the swing do r Through the wall without ceasing for a m m nt came the sound of a concertina being played in the shop Marya Vassilyevna sat down and drank some

and ya vassiyevin sat to dewind to drain some tea while at the next table peasants were drinking vodka and beer perspiring from the ta they had just swallowed and the stifling funes of the tavern I say Kuzma! voices kept shouting in con fusion What there! The Lord bless us

Ivan Dementyitch I can tell you that Look out old man t

A little pock marked man vith a black beard who was quite drunk was suddenly surprised by

something and began using bad language What are you swearing at you there?

Semyon who was sitting some way off responded angrily

Don't you see the young lady?

The young lady someone mimicked in

another corner

Swinish crow

We meant nothing said the little man in confusion I beg your pardon We pay with our money and the young lady with hers Good morning !

Good m min rs cred the set or limiters.
A have thick a most feel by

M r. I henn tra k ter tea with satt fac tion and a tra began tire rel like the peas nt 1f lit th king gain about firewood,

about e wat m

11

Stay old min that from the rest the its it so solm tress from Vyazo ve Wk mit his good your lady

Sh s II ht

which is the series of the series of the command in the series of the variation of the series of the d sappeared it ig ther a by the nest was past d sappeared it gift for the first was passed for the first till were git gired tig fill the man somewhat unitedly with pit Mary Vally man and held this! I to her flown he example the others shook hids tox at part g and went out after ther and th wing door squraked ind lammed in times

Vas ilyevna get r dy Sen y neul ed to be They set off Ar i aga n th y went at a walkin

Alttl will back thow builds is school here in the r \izl ey G odi tch sa d Semyon t rn n, round It was a w cked th n, that was don

Why what?

They say the presid t p t a thousand n his

pocket and the school guardian another thou and in he and the teacher five hundred

The whole school only cost a thousand It's

wrong to slander people grandfather That's all nonsense I don t know I only tell you what folks

sav

But it was clear that Semvon did not believe the schoolmistres The pea ants did not believe her They always thou ht she eccived too large a salary twenty one roubles a month (five would have been enough) and that of the money that she collected from the children for the firewood and the watchman the greater part she kept for herself The guardian thought the sam a the peasants and he himself made a profit off the fir vood and recuved payment f om the peasants for being a guardian—vithout the kno yledge of the authorities The forest thank God was behind them and

now it would be flat open ground all the way to Vyazovye and there was not far to go now They had to cross the river and then the rails ay line

and then Vyazovye was in s ht

Where are you dr ving? Marya Vassilyevna asked Semyon Take the roal to the right to the bridge

Why we can go this way as well It's not deep enough to matter

Mind you don't drown the hors What?

Look Hanov is driving to the bridge said Marya Vassilyevna seeing the four horses far away to the right It is he I think

It is S 1 d ! t fr! Bakvit at horre Wat pi hale If limb is Lord have mercy upon u He dn n 'e there and what for?

It's fully two mil rarrtl sway They end I ti r r in the summer it

was 1 ttl tramea ly c ased by wadm It usilly dred up n A & t but row after the pring flood I was a ri er f rty f t in treadil

rd mudty and cold o th tak and right up t the wat r th re er frest to & of wheels. soul dbenco will

G n hutden n lad xirush t gging violently t th d serking h s lbows abiddoes tw - (on

The lorse w nt n t tl wat p to lis belly and topped but t vent gin with an effort and V ya Va ly n w a are of a keep chilines in h feet

Go on sh tox hut d gettrg p Go

They g tout n the bak

Nic mess t is Lord ha e mercy upon us m ttered Sry sett g t lt tl h rness

It saperiet pl gu with the Zem to

Her shoes a d g lost war t l l i tr the lower pat i hrdes ni i h oat nd one lee were et and d ipping the s ar and for fad g tw t and th twa worst fall and Marya Vassily vn could only lasp h 1 nds in despair

and say Oh Simin Semy n II w to esome you e ally 1

The ba we down the allway crossing

A train was coming out of the station Marya Vasaliyena stood at the crossine waiting till it should pass and shivering all over with cold Vyazovye was in si ht now and thi school with the green roof and the church with its crosses flashing in the evening sun and the station win dows flashed too and a pink snoke rose from the engine and it seemed to her that everything was trembling with cold

Here was the train the windows reflected the gleaming light like the crosses on the church at made her eyes ache to look at them On the little platform between two first class carriages a lady was standing and Marya Vassilyevna glanced at her as she p sse! Her motler What a resem blance Her mother had had just such luxuriant hair just sich a bro and ben! I fith head And with ama in distinctness for the first time in those thirte n years there rose before her mind a vivid picture of her mother her fath r her brother their flat in Moscow the aquarium vith little fi h everything to the timest detail she heard the sound of the plano her father's voce she felt as she had be n then young good look ng well dessed in bright warm room among her own people A feeling of joy and happiness suddenly came over her she pressed her hands to her temples in an eestacy and called softly beseech ingly

igiy Mothe

And she began crying she did not know why Just at that instant Hanov d ove up with his team of four horses and s cin 1 im she imagined happi

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nes sicia sa hal never lal and smiled and nudd it I m as neg land a friend and it

seem dt t titler han mess, 1 trum i's was it in the ky i on all stees in the window i the est liter father and mother had did had est been a school

m stec tw al tedous stra e dream anima i hiwk ed

Semy n fill wed it The sgnalman took of

And ber sly zon Her war

A dat once t llar hi Ti trier w 5 wil assed M 1 1 ra lier g and numb with ld g 1 i t t at The carriage will the for herses ero-sed the ailway lie

hı cap

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

A NEPVOUS BREAT DOWN

1

A MEDICAL student call d Mayer and a pupl of the Voscow School of Panting Sculpture and Architecture c lled Pybnikov went one evenin, to see their friend Vassilyev a law student and sug_erted that he should go with them to S Street For a long time Vas ilyer would not consent to go but in the end he put on his great roat and went with them.

He knew nothin of fallen women except by hearsny and from books and he had never in his life been in the houses in which they live. He knew that there are immoral women who under the pressure of fatal circumstance s—environment bad education po crty and soon—are forced to sell their honour for money. They know nothing of pure love have no children have no civil in this their mothers and susters veep over them as though they were dead so ence treats of them as an evil men address them with contemptuous familiarity. But in spite of all that they do not lose the semblance and image of God. They all acknowledge their sin and hope for salvation. Of the means that lead to salvation they can a 11 themselves to the follest extent. Society in the will not forgive

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prople the react but note that of God St. 3 ary of Eccyp no law retain the other sames. When the histogram of the same such series to recover fall, we man a such by her dress or her man error to see post, if no a comic page, he have yo errors end torry, he had once read yours, man pr e and self sacrificting lo fall nwm na lu es ber t become his wife s. oc dir herself unwithy of such

hamp ness, t kes poison V salv led m n fth d t ts turr ng ut f T rsk v Boul a d Wh n he came out of the he the his twe f ds t was about

I n lock Th firt n w had rot lorg faller nd all nat was und r tt spell of the f esh snow. Ther was the n l f now in the air the work hed ftly kind the feet th earth the roof th t es th seat n th boulevard, everything was sait what you and the made th houses look quit di erert from the day before the tree lamp burned in re bri hill, the a was in r t an pasent the carriages rumbled with a deeper o and with the fesh, light frost)

at a feeling sturred in the soul and to the white youthful feathery enor \text{\text{\text{g inst my will an}}} un_een f ree, hummed the medical tud nt in his agrecable tenor he led me to these mournful hores Beh ld the mill th artist seconded him, in ruins now

Beh ld th mill in ruins now the medical udent epeated, ra his ey brows and

sha... his head mourn! Ily

He paused rubbed his forehead trying to remember the words and then sang aloud so vell that passers by looked round

H lddy h I as free Lof fitt dg tedm

The three of them went into a restaurant and without taking off their greatcoats drank a couple of glasses of vodka each Before drinking the second glass Vas-ilvev noticed a bit of cork in his vodka rai ed the glas to his eyes and gazed into it for a long time screwing up his slortsighted eyes The medical student did not understand his expression and said

Come why look at it? No philosophizing please Vodka is given us to be drunk sturgeon to be eaten women to be visted snow to be walked upon For one evening anyvay live like

a human being t

But I haven't said anything said Vassilyev laughing Am I refusing to?
There vas a warmth inside him from the vodka He looked with softened feelings at his friends admired them and envied them. In these strong healthy cheerful people how wonderfully balanced everything is how fini hed and mooth is every thing in their minds and souls They sing and have a passion for the theatre and draw and talk a great deal and dunk and they don't ha e headaches the lay after they are both poetical and debauched both soft and hard they can work too and be indignant and laugh vithout reason and talk nonsense they are warm honest self

2

acrife pg and as men are in ro way inferior to hims II \(\) as subject who is died over every step he took and ever word he attered who was fastidious a diet word he attered who was fastidious a died with the least problem. And he longed not to let hurself loose I ra he own control I to die had to be dru he he would druhk it the has head wild be pitt mext morining II he were taken it it will not be pitt wild laugh play the foll gaily expo die to the passing ad ances of st. the test of the state of the sussing ad ances of st. the test state of the sussing ad ances of st. the test state of the subject of the subject

H went ut 1 th ert 1 ughing He ked his friend—r a cruh 1 b d brimmed hat with an ffect 1 f art uc u it dness the therin a seal k. cap am r 1 poer though he affected to belon t th Bohem f learn or He kiked th w th pal treet lamps th harp black tack 1 fin in f t w by the feet of the passe s-by H 1 ked th ai despecially that limpid tend na e as twere gim 1 tone which can be seen an itur only two ce in the year—when everythig js to cred with six w and in spring, on bright days and rosonlight evenings when the is breaks in this

Agai st m will an known force Has led m to hese m umful bores.

he hummed in an nd rt n

And the tun fo som easo hau ted him and his frie ds all the way d all three f them hummed it mechan cally n t in t me with one are ther.

Vas dyev's ima ination was picturing how in another ten innuites he and his firends would knock at a door how by little dark passages and dark romes they would steal in to the women how takin, advantage of the darkness he would strike a match would light up and see the face of a martyr and a guilty simile. The unknown fair or dark would certainly have her hair down and be wearing a white dressing lacket sike would be pame stricken by the light would be fearfully confused and would say. For Cod's sake what are you doine! Put it out! It would all be dreadfull but interesting and new

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The friends turned out of Trubney Square into Gratchevka and soon reached the side street which Yassiyev only knew by reputation. Seeing two rows of houses with brightly liked windows and wide-open does not have been greated from the street of the sound of the street of the same should be an additional street of the same though an unseen orchestra were tunns, up in the darkness above the roof. Vassiljev was surprised.

What a lot of houses!

That s nothing said the medical student In London there are ten times as many There are about a hundred thousand such vomen there

The cabmen were sitting on their boxes as calmly and indifferently as in any other side street the same passers by were walk ng along the pave

ment as in other streets. No one was hurryn...
no n was hilling his face in his coat-collar no one shook his head reproachfully And in this ind-flerence to the noisy chos of pianos and voling to the bright wirdows and wide-open doors, there was a feeling of somethin ery open nso ...t reckless, and devil may-care. Probably

was as ga, and n at at the la e-markets in then day and people's fa es and movemen. showed the same think ence Let us begi from the beanning, and the

art st

The friends went into a narrow passage lighted by a lump with a reflector. When they opened the doo on a back coat with an unshaven face 1k, a funkey. I leepy looking eyes got up lazi from ay li wso a the hall. The place in lil laundry whan onou f never in add tion. A use from the hall led into a brightly Lahted com. The medical student and the art is sopred at the door and crarin their necks peeped into the com.

Puona sera. 1gnori ri ll to-humenottitran began the artis with a theatrical bow If var 1-taras o-f t let said the m deal s 1 t, pres 1 h can to his breast

d bown low Lassilvet was a and in bel dittern. He would ha elled t make theatmalle a and say someth my too buth nly sm let, i It an ankward ress that was i hare and wasted impat ently fraut walkar en a xt

A little fair mil cf winteen or eigh een, with

of white ribbon on her bosom appeared in the doorway

Why do you stand at the door? she said Take off your coats and come into the drawing

room The medical student and the artist still talking Italian went into the drawin room Vassilyev

followed them irresolutely Gentlemen take off your costs! the flunkey

said sternly you can t go in like that In the drawing room there vas besides the

girl another woman very stout and tall with a foreign face and bare arms She vas sitting near the piano laying out a game of patience on her lap Si e took no notice v hatever of the visitors Where are the other young lades? asked

the medical student

They are having their tea said the fair girl Stepan she called go an I tell the young ladies some students have come

A little later a third youn lady came into the room. She was wearing a bright red dress with blue stripes. Her face vas painted thickly and unstalfully her brow vas hidden under her hair and there was an unblinkin frightened stare in her eyes As she came in she b gan at once singing some song in a coar e powerful contralto After her a fourth appeared and after her a fifth

In all this Vassilyev saw nothin new or interesting. It seemed to him that that room the jianothe looking glass in its cheap gilt frame the

bunch of white r bbon the dress with the blue stripes and the bl nk indferent f ces he had seen belor a d mor than ne Of the dark ness th slence the ecrecy the guilty smile of all that he had expected t meet here and had dreaded h s w n tr

E ervth ng vas ord nary p o-aic an i uninter esting Only ne thing f intly stirr d hi curiosity-the t rable as it were int at nally designed, had taste hich s as visible in the corn ces in the absurd p ctures n th dres es 1 th bunch of ribb n There as som th a h cteristi and

peculiar in this bad taste H w poo and stupid tall is th ught Vas il

yer. What s the n all this trumpery I see now th t can tempt a norm I man and excite I im to c mmit the horr ble n I buy ng a human being for a rouble? I dr tard v in f th sake of splend r bea ty gr e passi n ta te but what is the he? What there he e worths nning to? Bt one m st think.

Beardy treat m t some porter said the

fair gul address og h m

Vassilvey was at once overcome 1th confu ion W th pleasure h sa d bowing politely Only excuse me madam I I won't drink with y u I d n t drink

I'v mi utes later th friends wint off into

anoth r ho se Why did y u ask f po t ? said the medical stud nt angraly Wh t a m ll air ! Y u hav thr wn ay s x roubles f eason hat

ever-s mply waste!

If she wants it why not let her have the pleasure? said Vassilyes justifying himself
You did not give pleasure to her but to the

Madam They are told to ask the visitors to stand them treat because it is a profit to the

Behold the mill hummed the artist

in ruins now
Going into the next house the friends stopped

in the hall and did not go into the draving room.
Here as in the first hou e a figure in a blick coat with a sleepy face like a flunkey's got up from a sofa in the hall. Looking at this flunkey at his face and his shabby black, coat V is like thought.

What must an ordinary simpl I'u sian have gone through b fore fate flung him do n as a flunkey here? Where had he be n b fore and what had he done? What was as a ting him? Was he married? Where was his mother and did she know that he was a s rvant he e? Vassilyev could not help particularly noticing the flunkey in each hou e In one of the houseshe thought it was the fourth-there wa a little spare frail looking flunker with a watchchain on his waistcoat He was reading a newspaper and took no notice of them when they went in Look ing at his face Vassilyev for ome reason thought that a man with such a face might steal mi ht murder might bear false "itness. But the face was really inter sting a big forehead grey eyes a little flattened nose thin comp essed lips and a blankly stupid and at the same time insolent expression like that of a young harrier overtaking

THE TALES OF TOHER ON

a hare Vast 'ye' though it would be mee to touch this man is hair to see whether it was noft or coarse. It must be coarse like a coarse

Ш

Havin drull two glasles of porter the artist became suddenly tips: and grew urmaturally high elv

Let's go t another h and peremptorily waving his hand. I will tak you to the best one

When he h d br uch his fir ds t the house which in h. opinion was tho beso he declared his firm intent to of dance. a quadrille The medical tudent grumbled conething about their having to pay to mus mains a orbit, but arreed to be his x x 4 us. They be an dance...

9

of the women had been dressed like a human bein or if there had been one decent engravin on the wall the general tone of the whol street would have suffered

How unskifully they ell themsel es, he thought I how can they ful to understand that vice is only alluring when it is beautiful and hidden when it wears the misk of it us? Modest black dresses pale faces mournful is mles and darkness would be far more effective than this clumpy tawdriness. Stip fd th so If they don't understand it of thems lives the 'i itors might surely have taught them.

A young lady in a Polish dressed of with white

fur came up to him and sat down beside 1 m

You nice da k man a by aren't you dancing?

she asked Why are you so dull? Because it i dull

Treat me to some Laftte Ti n it won't be dull

Vassilyev made no answer He was tlent for a little and then asked

What time do you get to kep?

At six o clock
And what time do you get up?

Sometimes at two and sometimes at three
And v hat do you do when you get up?
We have coffee and at s v o clock we have

dinner

And what do you have for d nner?

Usually soup beef teak and des ert Our madam keeps the girls well But why do you ask all this?

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

Oh just to talk

Vassifyev for ed to talk to the young lady about many things. He felt an intense desire to find out what he came from whether her parents were living and whether they knew that she was her how whe had come not this house with the she wer cheerful and satisfied sad and oppressed by gloomy thoughts whether sh he dosom day t g t out of her pres in position. But hould not think how t begin or in what shape to put his questions so as not t seem imperturent. He thought for all time and asked

How old are you?

Et hty th y un lady jested looking with a lau h at the ant cs of the a t t as h dan ed

All at once sh burst out l u h g at somethin a d uttered a l ng cynical sentence loud en u h t be heard by evervo 'Assib' was ghast and n t knowing h wt look g nstrained smile. H was the nly on who smiled all th others his friends the musicians the w men did

not ven glance towards his en hour b t seemed not to ha heard her

Stard me som Lafitt his hour said

a am

Vassily v felt a epuls n f h wh t fur and f r her vo ce and walled away from her It seemed to hun h t nd stiff ng and his h art began throbb. lowly but viol tly I ke a hammer—on two three

Let us go away he said pulling the artist by his slee

Wait a littl let m finish

While the art t and the med cal student were

finishing the quadrille to avoid looking at the women Vassilvev scrutinized the musicians A respectable lookin old man in pectacles rather like Marshal Bazaine was playing the piano a young man with a fair beard dressed in the latest young man with a lair beard dressed in the latest fashion was playing the volon. The young man had a face that did not look stupid nor exhausted but intelligent youthful and fresh. He sas dre.sed fancifully and with taste he played with feeling. It was a mystery how he and the respectable looking old man had come here. Ho was it they sere not ashamed to sit here? What were they thinking about when they looked at the women?

If the violin and the piano had been played by men in rags looking hungry gloomy drunken with dissipated or stupid faces then one could

have understood their p esence pe haps. As it was Vassilyev could not understand it at all once read and he thought no v that that human once read and he thought not vinat that human figure with the guilty sin le had nothing in common with what he as seeing, now If seemed to him that he was seeing, not fallen vomen tut some different vorid quite apart all en to him and in comprehensible if he had seen this world before on the sta e or read of it in a book he would not have believed in it

The woman w th the v hite fur burst out lau hing again and uttered a l athsome sentence in a loud voice A feeling of disgust took po ession of him He flushed crimson and went out of the room

Wait a minute ve are coming too! the artist shouted to him

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

IΙ

Whil we we denom and the medical student as the all three went out into the street I had a con reat on with my partner We tal ed bout her first ma. He th hero was a r t t t Smolens with a wif and fi e chi...r n Sh was menter and h li ed with her papa a d mamma, who sold soap and candies

How did h her beart asked V sulvev By penum nt bl nu derel thes fr

her Wh. t
So h k, wh w t g this partner tory out
of h thou at V... is beat them dical tudent B Id t know i t Lat lamgin hm had

Wh t for

Because I d n t k. w bow t bcha here Bes des I am bo ed, disguited What is ther amusin, in t If they were human bei gsbut th y are sa a es and animals. I am goi g do as you lik

Com Graha, Grigory darli g said th artist in a tea i l o'ce, h ggin, Vallyev com along Let s g to n more tog ther and damnation tak them Please do Grisha They persuaded Vassaly v and led ham up a

tarcase In the carpet and the gilt banisters in the porter who opened the door and in the panels that deco ted the hall the same S Street etyl was pparent but carn d to a greater perfection in unposing

I really will go home! said Vassilvey as he was taking off his coat

Come come dear boy said the artist and he kissed him on the neck Don t be tiresome

Grigni be a good comrade! We came together we will go back together What a beast you are really !

I can wait for you in the street I think it s

loathsome really Come come Grisha If it i loathsome you can observe it Do you understand? You

can observe t

One must take an object ev w of things

said the medical student gravely Vassilvey went into the dr wing room and sat

down There were a numb r of vis tors in the room besides him and his friend two infantry officers a bald grey haired g nti man in spectacles two beardless youths from the inst tute of land surveying and a very tipsy man who locked like an actor All the young ladies were taken up with these visitors and paid no attention to Va silvev

Only one of them dessed & l Aida glanced side ays at him smiled nd said yavning A d th one has come

Vassilvey heart was thobbing and his face burned He felt ashamed before these visitors of his presence her and he felt disgusted and mi erable. He was tormented by the thought that he a de ent and lov ng man (such as he had hitherto consid re i humself) hated these vo nen and felt nothing but repulsion to and them. He felt pity neither for the women nor the musicians nor the flunkeys

It s beca e I am not trying to understand them h the cht. They are all more like animals than hum beings but of course they are hum n being all the sam they have soul O e must u derstand them ind then judge

O e must u d rstand th m nd th n judge
Grisha, d n t g ait f r us the artist
sh uted to him and disappe ed

The medical st dent disappeared soon after

Yes, on must mak an first sunderstand

Yes, on must mak an first t understand ne mustn't be like th Vassily went on think of

A dh began gaz gatea lottl w men with tramed att nt looking? a guilty sinde But eitherh didnith white ad this fees on not o fithese wr if this refit he guilty he ad on e ery f thun bit a bianh expression of eryday ulgar bored m and omploency. Stupid fees it pid emiles, harsh tup do cices, insolent m m it and oith night of the content of the student of the content of the course, wine quadrilles sleeping till tw in the afternoon. Finding no guilty sin! Vasalyes began to look.

Finding no guitty sin! Vas.ilyer began to look with ther there was n to the not fee And his att ton was caught by on pale, ther sleep; bechausted looking fee It was a dark woman, n t very young wearing a dress covered with pangles. In was sittin n an easy-chair looking the flook look to thought Vassilyer

walked from one corner of the room to the other

and as though casually sat down beside her I must begin with something trivial he

thought and pass to what is serious

What a pretty dress you have! and with his

finger he touched the gold fringe of her fichu Oh is it? said the dark woman list lessIv

What province do you come from?

I? From a distance From Tcher nigov

A fine province It's nice there Any place eems nice when one is not in

11 It s a pity I cannot describe nature thou ht Vassilvey I might touch her by a description

of nature in Tchernigov No doubt she loves the place if she has been born there

Are you dull here? he asled Of course I am dull Why don't you go away from here if you are

dull? Where should I go to? Go begging or

what? Be ging would be easier than living here

How do you kno v that ? Have you begged ? Yes when I hadn't the money to study Even if I hadn't anyone could understand that A be gar 1 anyway a free man and you are a

slave The dark woman stretched and watched with sleepy yes the footman who was bri ging a tray-ful of lasses and selt er water

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

St dime a glas of portr he said and yaw ed gar

Prt r th ught Vasilye And what if urb th orm thr alk d nat this moment? What would y u say? And wh t would they

at Ther w ld t porter then I m in

All at or three was the sou dof eeping From th adjoining orm f m which the footman had brought the transfer man rith a ed face a da my yes an in qu kly. He was foll wed by the tall t ut m dam who was h uting a shrill

N body has g n you lea e to lap gils on the cheek. We hat bett the you a d they don't filt Imposto A hub ub ar c Vassiy w Inghtened and turned pale in the xt oom the was the sound of bit r g un weep a th h of someo insulted And he calized thit there were eal peopl h her who lk peopl very where else felt usult d suff ed ept and cried for h lp Th feeling f oppes : h t and digust gave w y to an cute feels f p ty and an ainst the ggresso. He ru hed i to th bottles n a marbl top t bl he distinguished a sufferin f ce wet with tears str tcled o t has h nds t wards that fa e took a step to ards the tabl b t at once drew b ck in horr The weeping gi l w s drunk

A he mad his wy thr h th n y crowd gather d bout th fair m n h h art sank and he i it frightened lik a child and it seemed to h m

that in this alien incomprehensible world p ople wanted to pursue him to beat him to pelt him with filthy words He tore down his at from the hatstand and ran headlong downstairs

7

Leaning ainst the fence he stood near the sounds of the pianos and rolins gay reckless insolent and mourrial mingled in the air in a sort of choos and this time loof is und seemed again like an unseen orche t a timin, up on the roofs. If one looked up and into the darkness the black background was all span led with white moving spots it as snow falls or a fix the snow flakes came into the light they floated round laz ly in the air like down and still more lazily fell to the ground. The snowlakes whited thickly round vassileve and hung up in his beard his eyelashes his ey brox and the more thanken the horses and the pass ris by were white

And how can the sn w fall in this street I thought Vassilyev Damnat n take these houses

His legs seemed t be giving vay from fatigue simply from having run down it e stars he gasp d for breath as thou h he had been climbun, uphill his heart beat so loudly that he could hear it He was consumed 1y a desire to get out of the street as quieckly as possible and to go home but even stron e was his desire to wait for his com panions and vent upon them his oppres. we feeling There was much he dd not understand in these houses the souls of nursed women were a mystery to him as be one but it was clear to him that the hu, was far we te than could have been believed. If that sinful woman who had po soned herself was called fallen, it was difficult to find a fitting nam if r all these who wer da. cine, now to his tangle if sou d d uttern g long loathsome sentences. They we too the road to run. but mand

There is vice h that ht but ther conscious ess of an or h pe fall ton They are sold and bought, steeped in wire and bominations, while they like heep ar tupid induferent and don't understand. My God My God

It was clear to h m too that everything that is called huma. dignity personal n his the Divin mage and semblance, we defined to their very foundate ons—to the ny marrow as drunkards, ay—and the total only the steet and the stupid women were responsible for it.

women were responsible for it

A group of i dents white with now passed

him laughin, and talkin gaily o e a tall thin fellow topped glanced int Vassilyevs f ce, and said in a drunken v ce On of the A bit on old man? Aba ha

said in a drunken v ce
On of us. A bit on old man? Aha ha
Never mind, ha a good time. Don't be down
hearted, old chap

H took Vas. Iyev by the houlder and pressed his cold wet moustach against his cheek, then he si pped, taggered, and, wav no both hands cried Hold on Don't upset

And landling he anto overt ke his companions.

Through the noise came the sound of the artist s voice

Don't you dare to lut the women I won't

let you damnation take you! You scoundrels
The medical student appeared n the doorway

The medical student appeared in the doorway He looked from side to side and seeing Vassilyev said in an agitated voice

You here! I tell you it's really impossible to go anywhere with Yegor What a fellow he is! I don't understand him He has got up a cene! Do you hear? Yegor he shouted at the door Yegor

I won t allow you to hit women! the artist a pieroing voice sounded from above. Something heavy and lumbering rolled down the tairs. It was the artist falling headlong. Evidently he had been pushed do vinstairs.

He picked him elf up from the ground shook his hat and with an angry and indignant face brandished his fist to ards the top of the stairs and shouted

Scoundrel Torturers! Bloodsuckers! I won t allow you to hit them To hit a weak drunken woman Oh you brutes!

Y gor Come Yegor! the med cal student be an implorin him I give you my word of honour I'll never come with you again On my yord of honour I you t

Little by little the art st vas pacified and the

fr ends vent homeward

Again t my will an unkno vn force hummed
the medical student has led me to tl ese mourn

ful shores

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Beh ld the mill the artist chimed in a little later in ruins now What a lot of srow Holy Mother Grisha hy did you go? You are a funk a regular old woman

La silves walked behind his compan ons, looked at their backs and the ht

One of two th n s either we only fancy prostituti n is an e il and we xa gerate it or if prostit t n eally is as g eat an il as is generally as-umed, these dear friend f m e ar as much sh now ers vi lat is and murder r as the in habitant of Sy ia nd Cair that ar described national of system of call that all described in the Ne a hard that a strong law hing talks g sense b then the they in the cent exploiting and an e and tup dity? They help and they have the control of the cent has been tness it Whit is the of their hum nity their mid ci e the paintin? their nur nry ura in or e in panitr.

The science art = d l fty sentim ts f these soul-destt yers r m d m f the pece f broom n the story. T o bri ands m d red a beggar in a forest th y began harr his I thes between them and fou d his wallet a p e f bacon Will found, and f them I t us h a bt Whatd y urnean? II wea you cried the their Ha y forg tt n th t

to-day Wednesd ; ? And they willd n t t t Aft murd rin a m n they cam out f th f rest in the firm co cti n that they we ekeep the fast In the same ave these men af er buyin wom n g th ir way imagining that th y

are arts to and men f sci nce. Li ten h said sharply and angrily Why

do you come h r ? I it pos ble-ts t pos bl

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you don't understand how horrible it is? Your medical books tell you that every one of these women dies prematurely of consumption or some thing art tells you that morally they are dead even earlier. Every one of them dies because she has in her tune to entertain five hundred men on an average let us say. Each one of them is billed by five hundred men You are among thoe 6 five hundred! If each of you in the course of your lives visits this place or others like it to hundred and fifty time—it follows that one woman is killed for every it of you! Can't you under stand that? Isn't thorrible to murder two of you three of you feel you a foolsh hungry woman—Ah!in't as full my God!

I knew t would end like that the artist

I knew t would end like that the artist sand frowning. We ou in host to have gone with this fool and ass. You imagine you have grand notions in your head now ideas don't you? No it's the dev! knows a hat lut not ideas. You are looking at me now with hair d and repul on but I tell you it is better you hould set up twenty more houses like those if an look! I set that Theres more vice in your express on than in the a hole street! Come along. Volodya lit him go to the devil. He as fool and an ass and that all!

We human beings do murder each other said the medical student It's immoral of course but philosophizing doesn't help it Good

tourse but phinosophizing doesn't help it Good by 1

At Trubnoy Square the friends said good bye and parted When he was left alone Vassilyev strode rapidly along the boulevard He felt

for himed of the lark ess. I the srow with was fall to be a heavy flakes on this ground and seemed as thosis, it would color to the whole world be felt finghtered. I this street lamps share with participation in the clouds of srow. His soul was posseled to an occonstable faint hearted terror. I assembly can be constable from the street terror in a sembly a more covarily him from time time but it through more did to seemed the notation women, at its seemed the north that women is non, but women were corning to the all its and start, at him.

Its beginning to thug to I am going to have a breakdown

V١

At how he la on h bed and aid huders. 5 all over They ar all My God, those women al.

H encours of t maginat m ill sorts of ways t pet himself th brother fa fallen woman, or her fitter them fallen woman herself with her parted cueess and t all mixed him to herror.

It seemed t han that h m t settl the question at one tail toot and that the q estion was not one that did of concern it m but was his own personal problem. H mad an immense effort repressed his despai and titan, on the bed, he had in his has been, this high fow on crold sat. If the mer h h d een that day. The method for tacking pr be mo of all his days as it was neducated man, well known to him. And fowever certical his was he stretly

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN 43 adhered to that method He recalled the history

adhered to that method He recalled the history of the problem and its literature and for a quarter of an hour he paced from one end of the room to the other trying to remember all the methods practised at the present time for saving women He had very many good firends and acquantances who lived in lodgings in Petersburg Among them were a good many honest and self sacrificing men Some of them had attempted to save women

All these not very numerous attempts thought Vassilyev can be divided into three groups. Some after buying the woman out of the brothel took a room for her bought her a sewing machine and she became a sempstress. And whether he wanted to or not after having bought her out he made her his mistress then when he had taken his degree he went away and handed her into the keeping of some other decent man as though she vere a thing And the fallen yoman remained a fallen yoman. Others after buying her out took a lodging apart for her bought the mevitable seving machine and tried teaching her to read preaching at her and giving her books. The woman lived and sewed as long as it was interesting and a novelty to her then getting bored began receiving men on the sly or ran away and went back where she could sleep till three o clock drink coffee and have good dinners The third class the most ardent and They had married them. And when the insolent and spoilt or stupid and crushed animal became

THE TALES OF TCHEHOL

a wife the head of a huselold and afterwards amother it turn there it is the cean latitude to hieupodd of n so the tit was had to recognize the fallen wim afterwird in the fall the moth r is a marnige was the tean i perhaps

the only m ns

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But at is mposible \(\) \(\) \(\)

And what s t d theth ! led thou sand in Lond n? Wit et! with those in Hambu g?

The lamp n which tho ih db t d n be an

t smol. Vas bevo'd d tnuc it Ife began pacing to and f gan till think g Now he p t th quest n diff inth hat mu the doe that t allen wom No di the red vi Tor that t essential that it min who but them det he sould feel all the imm rallity I thern he n n la i g them

d huld be h fied One mut sa the

is clear thought Vassilvev. The only way out of it is mi sionary vork

And he began to dream how he would the next evening stand at the corner of the street and say to every pas er by Where are you going and what for? Have some fear of God

He would turn to the apathetic cabmen and say to them Why are you staying here? Why aren t you revolted? Why aren t you indignant? I suppo e you believe in God and know that it is a sin that people go to hell for it? Why don't you speak? It is true that they are strangers to you but you know even they have fathers brothers like yourselves

One of Vassilvev s fr end had once said of him that he was a talented man. There are all sorts of talents-talent for wr ting talent for the stage talent for art but he had a peculiar talent-a relation for lumanty. He possessed an extra ordinarily fine del cate c nt fo pain in ge eral. As a good actor reflects in himself the mo ments and voice of othe s so Vassilyev c uld eff ct in h s soul the sufferin s of others When le saw tears he wept beside a sick man he felt sick himself and mouned if he saw an act of vi lence he felt as thou h he himself ere the victim of it he vas frightened as a child and in h s fri ht ran to help. The pain of others worked on his nerves excited him roused him to a state of frenzy and

soon Whetler this friend were ri ht I don't know but what Vassilyev experi nced hen he thought this question v as settled v as something like insp 46

ration. He cried a d Lughed, spo e alo d the words that he shuld say rixt day felt a fervent low for those who would list in to him and would stand besid him at the corner of the treet to p each he sat down to writ letters made vows to himself.

to himself
All this was lik inspirat on also from the fact
that it did t Lit i ... hassilyer was soon
tred. The cases London in Hamburg, in
Warsaw we shed upon him by their mass. s. a
mountain we its upon the arth he felt dipinted bewildered, in th ic I this mass hi
remen ered that he had or gift i words, thit
h was cowardly and timid, i.i. in different prople
would n the willing, to Lite and understraid him
a law tudent in his th d year a timid and ins
in...cant person thit genuine miss any work

m.inded .ot only teaching but deed.

When twas d.yu ht and carma, es were already
begin...r to rumble n th treet, Vassilyer was
lying motionless on the sofa, staring into pace.

H was no lorger thinking of the women no of
the men row finishonary w.k. His wh.l.

termon was turned upon the spiritual a_n(n), which was tourned, how. It was a dull, yage which was tourned, how. It was a dull, yage from of terro and to despair. He could point to the place wher the pum was, in his breast under his heart but the could not compar it with any tune, In the past he had had acut tooths he, had had plenns, and neuralgas but all was insignificant compared with this spiritual was insignificant compared with this spiritual was insignificant compared with this spiritual anguals. In the presence of this pain his seemed

loathsome The dissertation the excellent ork he had written already the people he loved the salvation of fallen women—everything that only the day before he had cared about or been indifferent to now when he thou ht of them irritated him in the same way as the noise of the carriages the scurrying footsteps of the watters in the pas sage the daylight. If at that moment someone had performed a great dead of mercy or had committed a revoltin outrage he would have felt the same repulsion for both actions. Of all the thoughts that strayed through his mind only two did not tritate him one vas that at every moment he had the power to kill himself the other that this gony would not last more than three days. This last he knew by experience. After lying for a why he pect up and winning.

than three days This last he knew by experience After lying for a while he got up and wringing his hands walked about the com not as usual from corner to corner but r und the room beade the walls As he passed he glanced at himself in the looking glass. His face looked pale and sunken his temples looked hollow his eyes were biger darker more staring as though they belonged to someone ele and they had an expression of insufferable nert lagony.

At midday the artist knocked at the door Grigory are you at home? he asked

Getting no answer he tood for a minute pondered and answered himself in Little Russian Nay The confounded fell w has gone to the University

And he went away Vassilyev Ivy down on the bed and thrusting his head under the pllow

THE TALES OF TCHEHOL

48 began cryi 5 with one rd the re re freele his tears flowed the rro argush becam As t be an to get dark he thought of the ag min bet awaitin I m and was ov reome by a b rmb despair. He dressed quickly ran out of his own ad. I a arg his door wid pen for ro bject o eason went out into th steet Will ut asking him if where he should go h walked quickly along Sadovoy

Snow was f llin as hearl as the day before it was thewing Thruitr h hands into his leeves huddenn and in htered at the roues. at the tram bells and at the passers by Vasilyes walked al n. Sadovo St eet as far as Suhare Tower then to the Red G t f om th re h turned off to Basmannya Street II went into a tavern and drank off a brg glas of odka, but that did not mak him feel bett. When he eached Razwulya h turned t the right and trod along de treets in which h had r be n before in his life. H reached th old brid, by which the Yanza runs gurgling and from which in can see long row of I hts in th wind of the Red some new ensat n or some ther pain Vassilyev n t knowing what t do crying and huddering

unded he greatcoat and jacket and exposed his bar chest to th w t snow nd the wind B that did not lessen his suffering eithe. Then he bent down ov th rail f the brid, and looked down int th black, yeasty Yauza and h longed to plung down head foremost not f m l athin

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

for life not for the ake of suicide but in order to bruse himself at least and by one pain to ase the other But the black water the darkness the deserted banks covered with no v were terrifying He shivered and walked on He walked up and down by the Red Barracks then turned back and went down to a copse from the copse back to the bridge again

No home home he thought At home

I believe it's better

And he went back. When he reached home he pulled off his wet coat and cap began pacing round the room and went on pacing round and round with out stopping till morning

M

When next morning the art st and the medical student vent in to him he vas movin about the room with his shirt torn biting his hands and moaning with pai

For God's sake he sobbed when he say his friend take me v here you please do what you can but for God's sake save me quickly I shall

kıll myself The artist turned pale a d was helpless. The medical student too almost shed tears but con sidering that doctors ought to be cool and com posed in every emergency said coldly

It's a nervous breakdown But it's nothing

Let us go at once to the doctor

14

Where or you like only for God's sake make haste !

49

D nt excite yourself You must try and control yourself

The artist and the medical student th trem bin hands put Vassily vs coat and hat on and led him out into the st t

Mihail Se geyitch has been wantin to make your acquaintance f r a l ng time, the medical

tudent said on the ay H is a very nic man and th r ughly good at h work He took his legree in 1882 and he has an imm n e practice already H treat st dents as though he were

on himself Vas. ilyev Mak haste make haste

urged M hail S rgey tch t ut f ha ed doctor rece ved th friend v th polten s and frig d dignity d mil d nlv on n s de of l is face

Rybn kov and May have poken to me of your illness already he .a d V ry gl d to be of service t v u W 1 ? Sit d vn I beg He m de Vass ly v t down a b armchau

near the t bl and m d a box f ciga etter tova i him N v th n he b gan st king his knees

Let us g t to wo k H wold r you?

H asked quest n d the medical student answered them H asked whith r V sailvev

f ther h d suff red f m cert in pecial diseases whethe he d k to e c ss wh ther le w re rem the ble for ulty o any pularities. He mid simil ringuries bout his grindfith mother sisters and b th s On le rn n that his m th r had a be ut ful vo ce and s metime acted on the stage he grew more animated at once and asked

Excuse me but don t you remember perhaps

your mother had a passion for the stage? Twenty minutes passed Vassilyev v as annoyed by the way the doctor kept stroking his knees

and talking of the sam thing So far as I understand your question doctor

he said you want to knov whether my illne s is hereditary or not. It is not

The doctor proceeded to ask Vas alges whether he had had any secret vices as a boy or had received injuries to his head whether he had had any aberrations any peculiarities or exceptional pro pensities. Half the questions usually asked by doctors of their patients can be left unanswered without the sli htest ill effect on the health but Miliail Sergeyitch the medical student and the artist all looked as though if Vassilyev failed to answer one question ill would be lost. As he re ceived answers the doctor for some reason noted them down on a slip of paper On learning that Vassilyev had taken his deg ee in natural science and was no studying law the doctor ponder 1

He wrote a first rate piece of original work

said the m dical student last vear I beg your pardon but don't interrupt me

you prevent me from concentrating said the doctor and he smiled on one sid of his face

Thou h of course that does enter into the diagnosis Intense intellectual work nervous ext au tion Yes yes And do you

drink vodka? he said addressing Vassilvey

THE TALES OF TOH HOL

try rh

An ill T twents more ites passed. The medical stud nt began till k the doctor in a low soice his oper nor toth mmild to cause of the att ck and leser hell a th die bef re yester day the artist Vas ly d t 1 ad visited

S Street The Lidiferent righted is fined tone in lied his friend and it set will of the won en and that meet blood a truck la silver as trurg in th t m

Doct til m til g i b said con

position of the trip should be trip should be trip should be not specified by the trip should be trip should be trip should be trip should be shou

Who d putes t? Yo m taldet or two Vail-

) asked c rth Yes a m tld ct

Lerhaps il fyuar r ht sad Vassilye g ting up nd beginning t lk frm e end
f th room t th thr P ! ps B t it
all seems m lk u t m T t l h uld ha
t k my d wee tw f c lt es v ls k upon as
greatach m t because lh w tt n work

which is the e year will be it own ide ind fog it in I am praised pit the kes but because I cann t speak if fall in wim is usen cernedly as of these ch is I in bein examined by a doct r I am call dimid I am pits d

Vassilye f som reason felt all t noe un

utterably sorry for himself and his companions and all the people he had een two days before and for the doctor he burst into tears and sank

into a chair

Hi friends looked enquiringly at the doctor The latter with the air of completely comprehend ing the tears and the despair of feelin, him elf a specialist in that line went up to Vassilvey and without a word gave him some medic ne to drink

and then when he was calm r undressed him and began to investigate the degree of sensibility of the skin the reflex action of the knees and so on And Vassilvev felt easier When I e came out

from the doctor he vas beg nn ng to feel a hamed the rattle of the carriages no longer irritated h m and the load at his heart g ev lighte and lighter as thou h it were meltin, aw y He had two prescript ons in hi hand one vas for brom de one was for morphia He had taken all these remedies before In the street he stood still and saving good bye

to his friends drag ed hims if languidly to the University

MISERY

MISERY

T wh m h ll I t ll my gr of?

THE twilight of evening Bi, flakes of wet snow are whirling lazily about the street lamps which have just been lighted and lying in a thin soft layer on roofs horses backs shoulders caps Iona Potapov the sled e driver is all white like a chost He sits on the box without stirring bent as double as the living body can be bent If a regular snow drift fell on him it seems as thou h even then he would not think it necessary to shake it off

His little mare is a hite and motionless too Her stillness the angularity of her lines and the stick like straightness of her legs, make her look like a halfpenny gingerbread horse She is probably lost in thought Anyone the has been torn a ay from the plough from the familiar grey landscapes and cast into this slough full of monstrous lights of unceasing uproar and hurry

ing people is bound to think

It is a long time since Iona and I: nag have budged Th y ame out of th ya d b fore dinner time and not a single f re yet. But now the shades of evening are falling on the too n The pale light of the street lan ps changes to a vivid colour and the bustle of the street grows nois er 57

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

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Sledge to Vyborg Ka 1! Iona hears. Sledg

Iona starts, and thr ugh his snow plantered

eyelashes sees an if er in a military overcoa.

To Vyborg kava, repeat the officer Are you sleep? T Vyborgskaya In token f assent I na g es a tu at the rems

which sends cakes I so willy g from the horse's back and shullr The facer g ts into the Jedge The sld dri er clcks t the horse cranes his neck lik a sw n rises in his seat and

more from hab t than necessity b andishes his whip Th mare cranes h neck too crooks her stick like legs and hes t t gly se s off

Whit ar you sho in you de il? Io... mmediat l hear h to f m th dark mass shift no to a. d f bef him. Wher the devil are y ug m. 2 keep to the right.
You don't know h w t dr. keep to the

keep to the n ht say the ff. er argnly

A coachman dri g carri e swears at him a pedestria. cros th oad and bru hing the horse's nose with hi h ulder looks t him angrily and shakes the now off his slee I ona fidg ts on the box as the ghe he we atte on thorns. jerks his lbovs and turn his yes bo t like one possessed as though holid not know whee he

vas or why h was ther What ascals they all ar says th offi er locosely They are uply d thur best to run up against you or fall und the h rise's feet

Thymu bed in the process

Iona looks at his fare and moves his lips Apparently he means to say something but nothing comes but a snuff

What? enquires the officer

Iona gives a wry smile and straining his throat brings out huskily My son er my son died this week sir

Hm! What did he die of?

Iona turns his whole body round to hi fare and

Who can tell It must have been from He lay three days in the hospital and then he died God's will

Turn round you devil comes out of the darkness Have you gone cracked you old dog? Look where you are going !

Drive on drive on

says the officer We shan t get there till to-morrow going on like this Hutry up !

The sledge driver cranes his neck again rises in his seat and with hea y grace swings his whip Several times he looks round at the officer but the latter keeps his eyes shut and is apparently d sin clined to listen Puttin his fare down at Vyborg kaya Iona stops by a restaurant and a am sits huddled up on the box Again the wet snow paints him and his horse white One hour passes and then another

Three young men ty o tall and thin one short and hunchbacked come ip railing at each other and loudly stamping on the pavement with their goloshes

Cabby to the Police Bridge the hunchback

60 cries in a cracked ice. The three of us

twenty kopecks I na tugs at the rens and cheks to his horse. Twenty kopecks is of a fair price, but he has no il ughts for that Wh ther it is a rouble or whether it is fi e kopecks does not matter to him

now so long as he has a fa e The three young m n, sho ng eacl othe and using bad languag go up t th ledge and all three try to

sit down at o ce Th q est nr mains to be settl d Which ar to t d wn nd h ch one is to stand? After i alt c t on ill temper and abuse, thy met the lu nth the lunch b ck must t nd because h is the shortest Well dri e n says the lunchb ck in his cracked vi scttli glimself d brathing down Iona neck Cut along What a cap you e got my fin d You ouldn't find a orse one

in all Pet raburg laughs Iona He—h he—he It s nothin to boast f

Well then nothing to boast f dri e on Ar y ug ngt dri ik this all the way? Lh? Shall I giv you one n the neck?

My had hes says one of the tall ones. At the Dukmasov yesterday Vaska and I d ank f ur bottles of br ndy between us

I can't mak ut why y u talk uch stuff say the ther tall on angrily You he like a brute

Strik me dead t the truth It s about as true as th t 1 use counhs

He-he grin Iona Me rry g ntlemen!

Tioo! the devil take you! cries the hunch back indignantly. Will you get on you old plague or won t you? Is that the way to drive? Give her one with the whip. Hang it all! give it her well

Iona feels behind his back the jolting person and quivering voice of the hunchback. He hears abuse addressed to him he sees people and the feeling of loneline's begins I tile by little to be less heavy on his heart. The hunchback stears at him till he chokes over some elaborately whimsical string of epithets and is overpowered by his cough His tall compani ns begin talking of a certain Nadyezhda Petrovna Iona looks round at them Waiting till there is a bief pause h looks round once more and s vs

This week mı er son died

We shall all de says the hui chback with a sigh wiping his lips after cou hing. Come drive on drive on. My friends I simply caunot stand crawling like this. When will he get us there?

Well you give him a little encouragement one in the neck !

Do you hear you old plague? I il make you smart If one stands on ceremony, ith fellows like you one may as vell walk. Do you ha you old dragon? Or don't you care a hang what we say?

And Iona hears rather than feels a slap on the back of his neck

He he he laughs Merry gentlemen God give you health !

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

Cabman are you married? asks one of the tall ones

1? He h Me er ry gentlemen The only wife for ra v 1 the d mp earth He ho-lo Ti gr e that is Here my son dead and I am all e strange thing death has come in at the wron Ins end I coming I r me it went for

ms son

6

And Iona turns d to t ll th m how h s son died but t that point th h black gives a faint s h and n u ces th t thank God they ha e arrived at last After tak his twenty kopecks In gazes for a l " whil after th revellers, wh disappear int a da k ntry Again h is al n and a ain there i ilence for him

The misery whi h has be f brief space eased comes back aras a d t a lisheart m e cruelly than ever With a look f arry ty and suffering Iona's eyes stray estles ly amon the crowds moven to and fr on both sides of the treet can h not find am those th sands someone who will listen to I m? But the cr wd ff t bt heedles I him and his misery Hi misery is immense beyond all bounds If I na s heart were t burst and his m sery to f wout t would flood the wh I world t seems but yet it is r t seen It has f und h din place n such an insignificant hell th t on w uld not ha e found tw tha cardl by dayl ght

I na sees a house port r w th a parcel and makes up his mird to address h 'n

What time will the fri d? heals

Going on for ten Why have you stopped here? Drive on

Iona drives a few pac s away bends himself double, and gives himself up to his m sery. He feels it is no good to appeal to people. But before five minutes have passed he draws himself up shakes his head as thou h he feel a sharp pain and tures at the reins. He can bear it no

Ionger
Back to the yard he thinks To the

yard!

And hi little mare a though she knew hi thoughts falls to trotti g. An hi ur and a half later lona is siting by a big, duty store. On the stove on the floor and on the bencies are people snoring. The air is full of smells and stuff iness. Ional looks at the leeping firures scratches himself and egrets that he has come home so early

I have not carned enough to pay for the oats even he thin! That swhy I am so mi er ble A man who kno sh w t do his work who has had enough to eat and whose hors has had enough to eat is alw ys at ease

In one of the corners a young cabman gets up clears his throat sle pily and makes for the water bucket

Want a drink? Iona asks him Seems so

May it do you good But my lon is dead mate Do you hear? This week in the hospital It is a qui er business

Iona looks to se the effect produced by his

64 words but he sees nothing. The young man has covered his head er and is already asleep-The old man i hs nd scratches himself

Just as the youn man had been thirsty for water he th 1sts for speech His son will soon have been dead a ve k nd te has n t really talked to any body vet He wants to talk of it properly with d l berat on He wants to tell how his

son as then ill ho he suffed lat he said before he died, how hid ed He wants to lescribe th funeral and ho h v nt t the hos pital to g t h son cl thes H still has his

daughter an ya in the country And he les he has wants to t lk about he too plenty to talk bo t nos. It s list ner ou ht to gh and excl un and lam nt It would be even better to talk t women Ih ugh they are silly creatures, thy blubber at the first wo d

Let go out and ha a look at the mare Iona thinks There is alw ys time f sleep You ll have lep enou h no fear

He puts on his coat and roes into the stables where his mar is standing if thinks about oats about has about th weatl

cann t think bout his son whin his alon T talk about him with someo e is possible but to think f him and picture him is insufferabl anguish

Are y u munchin? I na asks h s m r seei g her shining, yes. There munch ay munch way. S ce we hav not earned en ugh for oats w. ill eath y. Yes.

I have gr wn too old to dray Mysono ht to be driving not I He was a real cabman He on ht to have lived

Iona is silent for a while and then he goes on

That's how it is old girl

Ionitch is gone He said good bye to me He went and died for no reason No v suppose you had a httl colt and you were cwn mother to that little olt And all at once that same little colt went and died

be sorry wouldn't you? The little mare munches listens and breathe-

on her master's hand I ona 1 carried a ay and tell her all about it

CHAMPAGNE A WAYFARER 5 STORY

CHAMPAGNE

A WAYFARER'S STORY

In the year in which my story begins I had a job at a little station on one of our south western railways Whether I had a gay or a dull life at the station you c n judge from the fact that for fifteen miles round there vas not one human habitation not one woman not one decent tavern and in those days I was young strong hot headed, giddy and foolish The only distraction I could possibly find was in the windows of the passen er trains and in the v le vodka which the Jews drugged with thorn apple Sometimes there would be a glimpse of a woman s head at a carriage window and one would stand like a statue w thout breathing and stare at it until the train turned into an almost invis ble sp ck or one would drink all one could of the loathsome vodka till one was stupefied and did not feel the passing of the long hours and days Upon me a native of the north the steppe produced the effect of a deserted Tatar cemetery In the summer the steppe with its solemn calm the monotonous chur of the grasshopper the transparent moonlight from which one could not hide, reduced me to listless melan tholy and n the winter the irreproachable white-

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ness of the teppe it c ld di tance long n gl ts nd h wl g les pp ssed me like a hea 3 nightmar Th re se eral people living at the tatin my f rd I a deaf and croili us tel graph cl k and the at hm n Wy assi tant ay un man ho inc n umpt on used to go for t atm rt t th town wh che tayed for morths at tim lea ng his d test me tog ther with the right of pocketing hi sal ry. I had no children no cake w uld ha e t mpt d sitors to com and see m and I uld nly 15st oth r officials on the lin and that n ftener than orce a month

I emember my f and I v th \w Year n We sat t t bl ch w d lazily and h ard the deaf tel graph cl k mon t u l t ppi on his deaf tet graph of a mon r u r ppr on an apparatu m th n tr com l h dair d, drunk fi glasses of drugged odla d p oppn my hea y head on my list th ught im, r powernom bored m from h ch th was ecape while my w fe sat bed m nd did n t t ke he eyes ff m Sh looked at m as n ne ca look but n m Sh aconev at m as n ne ta none out a w man who has nothing the lid but a handsome husbard Sh l d m m dly slashly and n t merely my good looks my soul but my sins my lil humour and bo d m and

e nmy crulty bn indruknfury tkn w ing how to ent my ill hum ur I torm nted h I sp te f th bo ed m which w onsumin me, w wer p paring to see th \ w \ ar in with ex ept al festi eness, and wer iting

midm ht with som impatience. The f t is,

we had in reserve two bottles of champigne the real thing with the label of Veuve Chequot this treasure I had won the previous autumn in a bet with the station mast r of D when I vas drinking with him at a chri tening It sometimes happens during a lesson in math matics v hen the very air is still with boredom a butterfly flutters into the class room the boys toss their heads and begin watching it flight with interest as though they saw before th m not butt rfly but something new and strange in the same way ordinary champagne chancing to come into our dreary station roused us. We sat in silence looking alternately at the clock and at the bottles

When the hands pointed to five minutes to twelve I slowly began uncorking a bottle I don t know whether I was affected by the vodka or whether the bottle was wet but all I remember is that when the cork flew up to the ceiling with a bang my bottle shpped out of my hands and fell on the floor Not more than a glass of the wine was spit as I managed to catch the bottle and put my thumb over th foaming neck

Well may the New Year bring 3 on happiness

I said filling two glasses Drink

My wife took her glass and fixed her frightened eyes on me Her face was pale and vore a look of horror

Did you drop the bottle? she asked.

Yes But what of th t?

It's unlucky she said putting down her glass and turning paler still It's a bad omen It

means til t me misfortu e will happen to us this ar

17 t Ils thing you are I sinhed You ar cles r woman and set you talk as m ch n sense as an id nu se Dink.

G xi grant it s n rsense but something

is 2 t happen) ull see
Sh did n t even p her glass he moved away and sank I to thought I utt red a few tale

armo places about uperstition drark half a botti raced up a d down and then went out of the room

Out_id ther was the till frosty night in all its cold, inhospitable beauty. The moon and two white fluiry clouds besid it hung just over the

station, mo' nless as th ugh glued to the pot and loo ed as though wait g for something A far t tra parent light cam from them and to hed the white earth softly as though afraid of wounding her modesty and I hted up every thir -th snowdrifts, th imbankment was st IL

I walked along the railway emba km nt

Sils woman I thou ht looking at the sky pan led with brilliant st rs. E en fone admits that omens sometures tell the truth what evil can happen t us? Th m fortunes we have endured already and which are facing us now ar so great that t is difficult to imagin anything worse Wh t further harm can you do a fish which has been ca ght and fried and served up with sauce?

A poplar co ered with hoar frost looked in the

blush darkness like a grant rapt in a hroud It looked at me sullenly and dejectedly a thou h like me it realized its loneliness I stood a lo b while looking at it

My youth is thrown away for nothing like a useless eigarette end I went on musin. My parents died when I was a little child I was expelled from the high school I was born of a noble family but I have received neither education nor breeding and I have no more I nowledg than the humblest mechanic I have no r fuge no relations no friends no work I lke I am not fitted for anything and in the prime of my po vers I am good for nothing but to be tuffed into this httle station I hav known nothing but trouble and failure all my life What can happen worse?

Red lights came into sight in the distance A train was moving towards me The slumbering steppe listened to the sound of it My thoughts were so bitter that it seemed to me that I was thinking aloud and that the moan of the telegraph wire and th rumble of the train vere ex pressing my thoughts

What can happen worse? The loss of my wife? I wondered Lyen that is not terrible It s no good hiding it from my conscience I don t love my wife I married her when I vas only a wretched boy now I am young and vigorous and she has gone off and grown older and sillier stuffed from her head to her heels with conventional ideas What charm is there in her maudlin love in her hollow chest in her lustreless eyes? I put up with her but I don't love her What can

but I don't think I am capable of crime-I am not afraid of being hauled up for it

The two little clouds had moved away from the moon and stood at a little distance looking a though they were who pering ab ut something which the moon must not kn w A light breeze was racing across the steppe bringing the faint rumble of the retreating train

My wife met me at the doorway Her eyes were laughing gaily and her whole face as beaming

with good humour

There is news for you she hispered Make haste go to your room and put on your new coat we have a visitor

What visitor?

Aunt Natalya Petrovna has just come by the train

What Natalya Petroyna?

The wife of my un le Semyon Tyodoritch You don't know her She is a very nice good woman

Probably I frowned for my vife looked grave

and whispered rapidly

Of course it is queer her having come but don t be cross Nikolay and don t be hard on her She is unhappy you krov Uncle Sen yon Fyod ontch really is ill natured and tyrannical it is difficult to live with him She says she will only stay three days with us only till she gets a letter from her brother

My wife whispered a gr at deal more nonsense to me about her despotic uncle about the weak ness of mankind in general and of young wives in particular about t bein ou duty to gi e shelter to all. In great sinners and so on Unable to mak head o tail f t I p t on my new coat and went t mak equantance with my aunt

A littl woman with larg black eyes was sitting at th tabl My table the gr y walls my rou hlymad sofa, everythin to th time-t grain f dust seemed t ha grown y ung and m re cheerful n the presence of this new y un. beautiful and dissolute creature wh h d a prost ubtl perfume about hr A d that our 1 to was a lady of easy virtu I could see f om her smil from her scent fr m th peculiar w in which she glanced and made play with her y lashes f om the t ne n which sh talked with my wife-a respectable woman Ther vas no need t tell m h had run was from her husband, the ther husband was old and despotic that sh was good natured and h elv I took t all m at th first glan I deed. t is doubtful whether ther is rian n all Europe who cannot spot at the first glan a woman of a certain temperament

I did not know I had uch a b upphew said my aunt holding ut her hand to m nd sm ling And I did not kn w I had uch a p tty aunt I answered.

Supper began over a ann The cork flew with a same out of the second bottle, and my aunt swallowed I alf a glassful at a gulp and when my wif went out of the room for m min my aunt did not seruple to drain full glass I was drunk both with the win and with the presence of a woman Do you emer be the song.

Ey block a pth yeaf ll i pas Ey bng bright a d be. till How I bo y Hw I fea y u

I don't remember what happened next. Anyone who wants to know how love begins may read novels and long stories. I will put it shortly and in the words of the same silly song.

Everything went head over heel to the devil semember a fearful frantic shriwind which sent me llying round lee a feather. It lasted a long while and swept from the face of it e earth my wife and my aunt herself and my strength From the little station in the steppe it has flung me as you see into this dark street.

Now tell me what further e 'll an happen to me?

AFTER THE THEATRE

ACTER THE THEATRE

NADYA ZELENIN had just come back with her mamma from the th attre whe e she had seen a performance of Yevgeny Onyegin. As soon as she reached her o vn room she threw off her dress let down her haur and in her petticoat and white dressing jacket hastily sat do vn to the table to write a letter like Taty nas.

I love you she wrote but you do not love me do not lo e me!

She wrote it and lau hed

She was only sixteen and did not yet love
anyone. She knew that a officer called Gorny

and a student called Gru dev lo e! her but now after the opera si e v anted to be doubtful of the r love. To be unloved and unhappy—how interest ing that vas 'There I something beautiful touching and poetical about it when one loves and the other is indifferent. Onegan vas interesting, because he as not in love at all and Tatyana via, ascenative because she was so much in love but if they had be a equally in love with each other sand had been howers. He was so when he was the student of the sand that here had not been the sand that here had not been the sand that here had not been here.

fascinating because she was so much in love but if they had be nequally in love with each other and had been happy they rould perhaps have seemed dull Leave off declaring that you love me Nadya

went on writing thinking of Gorny I cannot

belies t von re ers el er cultivated senous von h immene tal nit and perh pe a brilliant fur auts v u hil I am an unint restin, gui f o import ce and ou know eer well fast I hould be ouls hind ce in vou li I It bru that v u w ti cted by rea and thou hit vou had i mit vour ideal in me b t that was a mistake and us v u ar a. k v ursell in despair Wilw d.d. I meet th t giil And ily y ur goodness

of heart p nt you from wni it to your self

\[
\text{dya felt sorrv f r h relf h bewan to cry} \]
and w nt n

It is hard f m to l mv m ther and m
br th l huld tak a nun eil and go

hither chance in v lead in Ad u w uld be left fee and w uld 1 th O'r f I we e dead Sh could n t m k ut h t sh had written through her tears littl rat bows e qui erin on th tabl n th floo n the ce ling as th ugh

My God b w nt restin, how fascin ting menwere holya scalled th fin expession in reanature, guilts and soft which cam no the fixer face when on argued about mus, with him and the effort h m d to pre-th-oct where cold h u htunes and indifference ar regarded assigns if good be eding and gentlermally bearingon must conceal spassions. And h did tiy to conceal them but he did not succeed and every one knew very well that he had a passonate love of music. The endless discuss ons about music and the bold criticasms of people who knew notling about it kept him always on the strain he vas fir hitmed timid and silent. He played the piano magnificently like a professional piant it and if he had not been in the army he vould certainly have been a 'Immous musican'.

The tears on her eyes dried hadya remembered that Gorny had declared his love at a Symplony concert and again down to a by the hatstand where there was a tremer lous draught blowing in all directions

I am ve y glad that sou have at hist mad the she went on viith H is a very clever man and you "ill be su e to like him. He came to se us yesterday and stayed till two clock. We were all del ghited with him. Ind I regretted that you had not come. He said a great deal that vas remarkable.

Nadya laid be arms on the tabl and leaned.

her head on th m and her hair co ered the letter. She ree lied that the student too loved her and that he had as much right to a letter f om her as Corny. Wouldn't it b better after all to write to Gruz I v? There wa a stir of 100 in her bosom for nor so on hateve at first the 100 was small and rolled in her bosom like an ind x rubber ball then it became more mass e bg er and rushed like a wave. Nadya fo got Gorny and Gruzdev her thoughts were in a tangle and her 100 grew and

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gra fr her bosom it pa el into her arms nd i gs nd it seen ed s thou halight cool breeze were t athirg on h r h ad an I rufflin her hair Her hulders out cred the ubd ed laughter the tabl and the I mp ch mn s shook, too and tears fr m he eyes plated on the letter. She could not stop laughing and to prove to herself the tell was not laugh grabout thing she made

haste t think f som tl funns

What a funny pood! ! 1 a l freling as th ugh he would cl k with la ght r What

funny poodle She th ught h aft t th ng before Gruzdev h d placed with Ma mith poodle and afterward i dt li them is it a v ry intelligent

poodl who h d run aft rac win the yard and the crow h d look I und at h m nd said

Oh y u scamp ! Tl poodl n t k ow g h h d to do with a learned cr was fea fully confu d nd tre ted

n perol xits thin begin bark g No I had bette ! Gruzdev \adya decided nd h t e up th lett t Gorny

She fell to think ng of the t dent of his love of her love but the thought in he head insisted on flowing in all d ection nd sh thought about e erything-abo t her mother about the street

about the pen I about the pi no thought of them ; yfully and felt that rything was good splendid and he joy told her th t this as not all that in a littl whil two ld be better st li Soon it wo ld be sp i g summer goin with ber noth r to G bk Go ny would come for

AFTER THE THEATRE his furlough would walk about the garden with her and make love to her Gruzdev would come too He would play croquet and skittles with h r

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and would tell her wonderful things She had a passionate lon ing for the garden the darkness the pure sky the stars Again her should rs

shook with laughter and it seemed to her that there was a scent of v ormwood in the room and that a twip was tapping at the window She went to her bed sat down and not knowing

what to do with the immense joy which filled her with yearning she looked at the h ly image

hanging at the back of he bed and said

Oh Lord God Oh Lord God!

A LADYS STORY

A LADY S STORY

NIVE years ago Pyotr Sergevitch the deputy prosecutor and I were riding toward e enin in haymaking time to fetch the letters from the station

station
The weather was magnificent but on our way
back we heard a peal of thunder and saw an angry
black storm cloud which was coming straight

black storm cloud which was coming strught towards us The storm cl ud was approachin us and ve were approaching it Against the background of it our house and

church looked white and the tail poplars shone like siver There was a scent of rain and mor n hay My companion was in high spirits. He kept laughing and talking all sorts of nonesses. He said it would be nice if we could suddenly come upon a medieval castle with turreted towers will moss on it and owls in which we could take shelrer from the rain and in the end be killed by a thinder

bolt
Then the first wave raced through the ryc and
a field of oats there was a gust of wind and the
dust flew round and round in the air Pyotr
Sergeyitch laughed and spurre I on his horse

It's fine! he cried it's splendid!

Infected by his guety I too began laughin at

that I love you Be silent do not answer me take no notice of it but only know that you are dear to me and I t me look at you

His rapture affected me too I looked at 11 enthusiastic face listened to his voice which min gled with the pritter of the rain and stood as though spell bound unable to stir

I longed to go on endlessly looking at hi shining eyes and listening

You say nothing and that is splendid said Pyotr Sergeyitch Go on being silent

I felt happy I laughed with d light and ran throu hith drenching rain to the house he laughed too and leaping as he went ran after me

Both drenched panting nossily clatte ing up the stars like children v e dashed into the room. My lather and brother who were not used to secure me laughing and lighthearted looked at me in surprise and began laugh ing too

The storm clouds had passed over and the thunder had ceas d but the randrops still gluttered on Pyotr Sergeyitch s b ard. The whole evening till supper time he was sing my whit in playing not aly with the dog and racing about the room after it of that he nearly upset the servant with the samovar. And at supper he ate a great deal talked nonsense and m instaned that when one east frest cucumbers in unter there is the frig rance of sprint in one is mouth.

When I went to bed I lighted a candle and threw my undow unde ojen and an undefined fe ling took possession of my so il I rem mbered that I was fre and healthy that I had rank and we that it it is ded above all that I had rank an iw lit r k ni alth my God I how me that we had in he deduced in he at a t h f c liw i h reached me from the gard n with the ew I tried to disco er wo ther I i Py tr Serg vi h r n t and f ll

I pushlit r l chluion

And when in the mong I saw qui ering
pates for littal the desofthe limes trees n my bed with add prened jesterday use the in my m m v Lf seemed ome cl arred f li f charm Humming I d.essed

quekly and want out at the garden
And hat happened afterwards? Why-

nothing I the wirt r when we liked in to an Pyot Segeyith aim to see unfrontier to time Cou try acq as t nees ar larming only in th country and summer 1 th town and in wrater they los ti ir charm. When you pour out tea for them in th. t. wn. seems. th. h. tl. ev. are wearing other peopl. s. co. t. and as tho. gh. they stured their tea too l ng In th t wn too Pyotr Sergey ch poke som times of 1 but the effect was t at all the same a in tho ountry 1 th town we were more 1 idly ascious f the wall th t tood between us I had rank and wealth while h was poor and he was n t en a nobleman b t only the son of deacon and a deputs p blic prosecutor w both f us—I th ough my youth and he fo som u known reason—thought of that wall as very high and thick and when he w with us in the town he would crit cize are to-crat society with a freed smill and maintain a sullen silence when there was anyone else in the drawing from There is no wall that cannot be broken through but the heroes of the modern romance o far as I know them are too timid spiritless largy and oversensitive and are too ready to resion themselves to the thought that they are doomed to failure that personal lift has dis appointed them instead of struggling they merely criticize calling the vorld vulgar and forgetting that their criticism passes little by httle into vulgarity.

I was loved happiness as not far away and

seemed to be almost touching me I went on living in ear less ease without trying to under stand myself not known, whit I expected or whit I wanted from life and time vert on and on People passed by me with their love bright days and warm nights fitshed by the mightingales is in the hay melf frigrant and all this sweet and overwhelm in in remembrance passed with me as with everyone rapidly leaving no trace was not prized and vanished like mist. Where is it all?

My father 1 dead I ha e grown older every thing that delighted me caressed me gax me hopo—the patter of the rain the rolling of the thunder thoughts of happ ness talk of love—all that has become nothing b t a memory and I see before me a flat desert distance on the plan not one living soul and out there on the horizon it is dark and terrible

A ring at the bell It is Pyotr Sergeyitch When in the winter I see the trees and rememb r

low green tley or for m in the summer I

Ol my d lin s
t id wh n I see peo l with wl m I spent my
p ng t n I feel sorr ful and rarm and whi per

p ng tn Healsorr ful and arm and whi per the sam thing H has lon go by my father s good off ces been tran ferral to to m. H look a little older a little

fallen away. He ha I ng g n up declaring his love h s left fit talking nsn di likes his fit all wit is sill in om w w nd di llu i ned he has giv n ip try n t g ta viting out of life and takes no i terest i hing Novi he has sat do m by the hearth and looks in len at the fire.

Not knowing h to say I ask him Well what he sout till me?

well what he you tell me?

And all no gain. The edgl of the fire plays bout hem lanch by for I thought of the part a lall ton em shoulders

be an qui erig my h d dropped nd I began wep ag bitterly If It nbear bly sorry f my self and for its m n nd pa. n t ly longed for wt t had pa. ed w v d wh t lf refused us now And now I d d ot this k about rank and calth

I b k to l d sobs presig my temples d muttered

My God m God my life; a tell And he sat a dws s lent ddd not say t

me Don't weep. He under tord that I must

I saw from his eyes that he was sorry for me and I was sorry for him too and vexed with this timid unsuccessful man who could not make a life for me nor for himself

When I saw him to the door he was I fancied purposely a long while putting on his coat Twice he ki sed my hand w thout a word and looked a long while into my tear stained fa e I believe at that moment he recalled the storm the streak of ram our laughter my face that day he longed to say something to me and h would have been glad to say it bit he said noth n le merely shook his head and pre sed my hand God help I im ! After seem 1 im out I w nt back to my study

and again sat on the carpet buf r the fireplace the red embers were co ered with ash and beg n to grow dim The fro t tapped st ll mo e angrily at the windows and the wind dron d n the chimney The maid came in and thinkin I was asleep

call d my name

IN FAILE

NEXIL

OLD STAYION inchanal of Canin, and a young Tatar whom no one knew by name were sitting on the river bank by the camil tree the other three ferrymen wer in the laut Semyon an old min of sixty 1 an and toothless but broad shouldered and still healthly 1 ok ng was drunk he would hav gone in to sleep long b f r but had a bottle in his pocket and he was afraid that the fellows in the lut would ask him f r odka. The Tatar was that ard weary an I varapping him is rags was discribing ho v nice it wa, in the Sumbixh pir nice in what he beautiful and [cf. cr wife h had left behind at home. He was not m re than it will five and now by the light of the camp fire vit h is p k and sick mountful face he looked like a boy.

To be sure it is not paralle her soul Canny You can see for yours if the wate the bare banks clay and nothing lise Easter has long passed and yet there is no on the river and

this morning there v s snow

It's bad! it's bad said the Titar and looked round him in terror

The dark cold river was flo ving ten pices away t grumbled lapped against the hollow clay bank

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and raced on swiftly towards the far away sea Close to the bank there was the dark blur of a b g bange which to ferrymen called a Larbos Fa. wa 7 th further bark hgats dva.g down and ... term up a am ngragaed lik Lttl snakes the wer burns. las year gra. And bevond the little masses ther was da kress again. There I ti ...les co...d be heard knockin, against the barg It was damp and cold

The Tatar glanced t the ky There were -5 many tars as thorn and the same blackness all round but somethin, was lacking At hom m th Simbur pr ince th star were quit

It bad it shad I eneated

You wal g t used to t said 'emyon and be lan had Now you as your, and foolish th milk is hard v dry on y ar lips and it seems to you in your foodshres. In t you are more wretched than an n but th tur will come when ou will say to yoursel I with no one a better hie than min You look at m Within a week the floods will be over and we hall set up th ferry you will all go wandering it about Siberia whil I shall stay and hall begin got. 3 from ban to bank I ve been gon he that for twent two year d v and might. The pik and the salmon ar under the water while I am on the water. And thank God I is I want nothing God giv every n_ench a lif

The T tar threw some dry twig on the campfr las down tooser to the blaze and said.
"My father to a sica man. When he dies my

mother and wife vill come here. They have promised

And what do you want your wife and mother or? a sked Canny That s mere foolishness my lad its the devil confoundin, you damn his soul! Don't you histen to him the wreed one Don't let him have his way. He is at you whout the women but you spite him say I don't want them? He is on at you about free iom but you stand up to him and say I don't want it! I want nothing neither father nor mother nor wife nor freedom not post nor paddock I want notting darn their Soulis!

Semyon took a pull at the bottle and vent on I am not a simple peasant not of the vorking class but the son of a deacon and when I was free I lived at Kursk I used to year a frock coat and

now I have brought myself to such a pass that I can sleep naked on the ground and eat grass. And I wish no one a better life. I want notling and I am afraid of nobody, and the way I look at it is that there i nobody reher and fire it n I am When they sent me here from Russ a from the fir t day I stuck it out. I want nothing. The devil was at me about my vife and about my home and about freedom but I told him. I want nothing. I stuck to it and here you see I he well and I don't complain and if anyone gives way to the devil and lastens to him if but once his lost there is no solvation for I im he is sunk in the bog to the crown of his heal and will never get out.

It is not only a foolish peasant like you but

even g nile; r w ill edu ated people are lo t l fren y ars ago th y sent ag tleman l ere from fluss a ll l int shared something with his britles and that forged something in a will Thy ydids y l w sap rice or a baron but maybe he was sin ply n offic l—w! knows? Well the gentleman arrived! r n dfirst this; phe bought

lims If a hou e and I nd in Muhortinskoe I

Into live by my o'm w k says le in the seat fmy bro for I n not a gintlemm now says he but settler. Well says I God lelp you that stheright thing. If was young man then buy and car fill used to m whimself and catch i hand ide sixty miles on his shad and the says of the weys first year le took to fold to Gyrino I the post he ued to ad on my frym d. h. Ech Semyon how logit is sinct they sint m any money from hom. You did not want mey Was ly Sereyitch says I. Wit use sit to you? You staway the past and long to a though it had never been at all a thoight the does not always I will be not the tot to the visays I he will br g you to no good he'll dryou not a stare. You want money says I

says I be will br g you to no good he'll dr you nto a snare \(^1\) Now want money says I but \(^1\) very hitl \(^1\) you'll be thing les and then \(^1\) and \(^1\) I in the want \(^1\) but \(^1\) by you want \(^1\) but \ Two years later I ferried him across to this side and he was rulbing his hands and laughing I am going to Gyrino to in tiny wif says he She was sorry for me says he she has come She is good and kind. And he was br attless

She is good and kind. And he was brattless with joy So a day fixter he cam with fixs wife A beautiful young lady in a h t in h r arms was a baby girl. And lots of lugg ge of all sorts An imy Vas hy Sergeyitch was fussing round her he couldn't take his yes off ier and couldn't ay enough in praise of her. Yes brotler Semion in Siberta people can live! Oh all right thinks I it will be a diffrent take presently And from that time forwar I he went almost every weck to nquire whether money lad not come from Pussia He wanted a lot of money She is losing her youth and b auty here in Siberia for my sake ays he and slaving my bitter lot with me and so I ought says he to provide her with every omfort

Tomak t livelier for the lady he made acquaint ance with the officials and all sorts of riff raff. And of course he had to give food and drink to all that cre v and there had to be a piano and a shag y lapdog on the sofa—plag ie take it Livury in fact self indulgence The lady did not stay with him long. How could she? The clay the water the cold no vegetables for you no fruit All around you ignorant and drunken pople and no ort of mant era and si e was a spoilt lady from Petersburg or Woscow T be sure she moped B des her hust and say what you like was not a gentleman now but a settl r--not the same rank

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Three ear later I remember on the eve of th 4 ump ther was shouling from the further bank I wert over with the ferry and what do I - ut the lady all wrapped up and with er a your, gentleman an official A Jed e with three horses I ferried them across here there is mand was like the wind. They wer wer les t sunt And towards morning Vascil Serger teb gallored down to the ferry Didn't my wif com this we with a gentleman in pectacles envir h die ...id I you may loo' for the wind in the rields H galloped in pursuit f then For f. e days and in his h was riding after them. When I ferred him over to the ot er set afterward, he flung hanself " th ferry and beat he head on the boards of the ferry and howled So that how t is say I I langhed and eminded him people can be even in Siberia. And he beat his head harder than ever

Then b beran to m g for freeders. His will bad ... wid off ito Russia and f course h was drawn ther t see her and to get her way from her lover. And h too' my lad to gallopeg almost every day, eather to th post or to th town to see the commanding officer. h kept sending in petitions for th m to have merey on him and I have go been been and her do say that he had specified to be the seed of the seed of the total to be seed to the Jews. H grew gree and best and yellow in th face as though h was in consumption. If the talked to you keep will be talked to you keep will be heese-khee-khee.

and there were tears in his eyes. He kept rushing about like this with petitions for eight years but now he has grown trighter and more cheerful again be has found another v him to give way to You see his daughter has grown up He looks at her and ste is the apple of his eye And to tell the truth she is all right good looking with black evebro s and a lively disposition Every Sunday he us d to ride with her to church in Gyrino. They used to stand on the ferry side by side she would laugh and he could not trike his eyes off her. Yes Semyon says he people can live even in Siberia. Even in Siberia there is happiness Look says he what a daughter I have got! I warrant you wouldn't find another like her for a thousand versts round. Your like her for a thousand versus round xourdaughter soil right says! I that struc cer tanily But to myself I thought Watt a bit the wench is young her blood s dancing she wants to live and there is no life here. And she did begin to pin my lad She faded and faded and now she can hardly crawl about Cor sumption

So you see wh I Siberian happiness is damn its soul You ee ho peoile can liven its bestatis soul You ee ho peoile can liven in Siberia H has taken to going fr m one doctor to another and taking them ho ne with him. As soon as he hear that two or it ree hundred miles away there is a doctrr or a sorcerer he yill drive to fetch him. A terrible lot of money he has yent on doctors and to my thinking he had b tter have spent the money on drink. Shell ide just the same. She is ertain to die and then it will

be all o er with him H II han himself from gri f r run away t Russia-that's a sur thin H 'll run away and they ll catch him then he will be tried int to prison h will have a taste of the lash

Good good said the T tar shi ering with cold.

What s good? asked Canny

His fe his dan hter What of prison and what of sorr —any as h did see his wil What of prison and his da ght r Y u say ant nothing.
But nothing is b d H s fe h ed with him three years-th t was a gift fr m God Nothing s bad but three years is good. How not under

stand? Shi erin and hesit ting with effort picking out th Russian wirds of hich hi kniw but few th T tar said that God forbid on should fall sick and di in strange I nd and be buried in the cold and dark earth that if his if cam to him fromedy vafron hur thtfr uch happiness h w uld be ready to bear any suffering and t thank God Better one day of

b poiness than nothing Then h described again whit a beautiful and clever wif h had I ft at hom Then clutching his head in both hands h be an cryin and assuring Semy n th t h was n t guilty and was suffering fo n thing. His two b others and an uncl. h d carried off a peasant's horses and had

beaten the old man t'll h w half dead and th commun had n t judged fairly but had contr ved a sentence by which all the the ee b others were sent to Siberia while the uncle a rich man was left at home

You will get used to it said S myon

The Tatar was sil nt and stared with tear tained eyes at the fire his face expressed lewilder ment and fear as thou hhe still did not under stand why he vas here in the darkness and the wet beside strangers and not in the Simbursk province

Canny lay near the fire chuckled at something and tegan humming a song in an undert no

What joy has sie with n fail n? he said a little later. He loves her and le regionces in hir that strue but m ate you mu t mind your ps and qs with him he is a struct oid man a harsh old man. And young venches don't want str tness. They want petting and hail all, and ho-ho ho and seent and pom de 'ves. Ech ! le lift sighted's myon and le got up lea "ly 'The vodka is all gon's or it is time to si'p Eh? Yam goong myo lad.

I. It alone the Tatar put on more twgs lay of its own village and of his wif If his vife could only com for a month for a day and then if she hed she wig t go back. an Better a month or ven a day tl an nothing Dut if his vif kept level of the points and came v hat ould he have to feed let on? Where could sh 1 e here?

If there e e not something to eat low could

she hv? the Tatar asked aloud

He was pud only ten kope ks for working all
day and all night at the oar tist ue that travelle s
gave him tips for tea and for yodka but the men

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shared all they ec ised among themselves and gav noth no to tl Tatar but only laughed at him and from po erty h as lungry cold and Now when h s whole body was frightened ach ng and hi ering h ought to go into the hut nd l d wn to sleep but h h d nothing to cover him there and t wa cold r th n on the ri er

bank here he h d nothing t ove him ther but at least he could mak up the fire

In another week wh n the floods were quite over and they set the ferry going none of the ferrymen but semyon w uli be wanted and the Tatar would beging going from allag to vallage begging for alms n l fo wo k His wife was only se enteen sh was beaut ful spoilt and hy could sho po they go from allage to tall go be going alms with her fe u led? To twas terrible

even to think fithat

It was already g tting I ght the barge the bushes I will w on the water and the a es could be clustly discerned a d f o look d r und there was the steep clay slope at the bottom f t the hut the tched with dingy brown t w and the luts of the ullag lay clu tered higher up. The cocks were already crowing in th llage

were already crowing in in large.

The rusty ed clay slope the barg the rief the strang unkind people hunger. Id illness perhaps all that was not eal. Most likely t was all a dream thought th T tar H f It that he wa asleep nd heard his wn snori g course he was at home in the Simbirsk pro unce and h h d only to call his vif by nam f he to answer and in the next com we his mother

What terrible dreams there are though!
What are they for? The Tatar smiled and opened
his eyes What river was this the Volga?
Snow was falling

Boat! was shouted on the further side

Boat The Tatar woke up and vent to wake his mates and row over to the oth r ude. The ferrymen came on to the river bank putting on their torn sheepskins as they walked a vearing with voices husky from sleepiness and shivering from the cold on waking from their sleep the river from which came a bre th of jercing cold seemed to strike them as revolting and horrible. They jumped into the barge without hurry ng themselves. The Tatar and the three ferrymen took the long

The Tatar and the turee ferrymen took the long broad bladed oars wich in the darkness looked like the claws of crabs. Semyon leaned his stomach against the tiller. The shout in the other sid still continued and two shots were fired from a revolver probably with the idea that the ferrymen were saleep or had gone to the pot house in the village.

All right you have plenty of time said Semyon in the tone fan an convinced that there was no necessity in this world to hurry—that it would lead to nothing anyway

The he vy clumsy barge moved away from the bank and floated between the willow bushes and only the willows slowly moving back showed that the barge was not standing still but moving. The ferrymen swung th oars evenly in time Semyon lay with his stomach on th tiller and describing a semicricle in the air flew from one side to the

other In the dirkness it looked as though the men wer sitti g on some antedilu nan anmai with long paws and ver moving on it through a old desol te lind the land of which one some t mes dreams n ni htmares

They p ssed by nd the willo s and floated o t into the open. In reak and regular splash of the oars was heard on the further hor and a

shout came W ke h ste make haste

Another t n minutes p sed and the barge banged hea ly ag nst th 1 ding stage And it keeps prinkling ad sprinkling mut

tered Semyon w ping the now from his face and

wher it ll om s from God only kn s
On the bank stood a thin me n of medium height in a jacket hned with fox fur and in a v hite lamb skin cap He as standin t a littl distance from his h rses and ot mo 1 g he had a gloom) to emember something and angry with his untrustw rthy memory. When Semyon at up to him and took if his cap smiling h said

I am hast ning to Anastasye ka My dau,h ter wo se gain and thy say that there is a new doctor it mastasy ka

new doctor 1 mastasy ka
They dragged th carriag n to the barge and
flo ted back. The man h m Semyon addressed
as 1 assily Serge; the stood all the turn mt in fless
tightly compressing his the k lips and tarring of
to pac wh nhis to chann asked perms. no
smok in h spresenc h m d
nsn as though
h hadn theard. Semy n is ng this stomach
n th tiller looked mock gly t him and said

Even in Siberia people can live—c n li ive! There was a triumphant expres ion on Canny's face as though he had proved something and was delighted that things h d happened as he had fo'e told. The unhappy helplessness of the man in the forskin coat evidently, afforded him great heleasure

forskin coat evidently afforded him great pleasure
It's muddy driving now Vassily Sergevitch
he said when the horses were harne sed again on

Now the bank. You should have put off going for nother fortught who n it vill be drier. Or else not have, gone at all. If any good vould come of your goin—but as you know yourself people ha e be nd triving about for ye rs and year day and might and its alw ys been no use. That is the truth

Vassily Se geyitch t pped him without a word

got into his c rri g nd drove off

There he ha salloped off for a doctor—said Semyon shrinking from the cold—But looking for a good doctor—I his elasing the wind in the fields or catching the devel by the tail plogue take your soul—What a quor clop—Lord forgive me a sinn r

The Tatar vent up to Canny and looking at him with hatred and r pulsi n shiverin and mixing Tatar words with his broken Russian sad

H is good good but you are bad You are bad a You are bad Til g ullem in a good soul cellent and you are a be st bad Til g not good soul cellent but you are a dead carease God creat d man to be ah e and to ha e joy and grief and sorrow but you want nothin so you are not alive you are stone lay A stone wants nothing and you

THE CATTLE DEALERS

THE CATTLE DEALERS

THE long good train I as been standing for hour in the little station. The engine is as silent as though its fire had gon out there is 1 of a soul near the train or in the station yard.

A pale it as to flusher come from one of the vars and glides over the rails f a siding. In that van two men are sitting on a outspread cape one is an old man with a big grey beard werin a sic pskin coat and a high lambskin hat ome hat like a busby the other a b ardless youth in a threadbare cloth re fer jacket and muddy hi boots. They are the own r of the poods. The old man s ts hi lees stretched out before him mus ng in all not the youn man half rich ies and softly strums on a cheap accordion. A lantern with a tallow candle in it s banaring on the wall.

near them
The van a quite full. If one glances in through
thed mli ht of the lantern [the first mom in the
jes recei can impression of something hapeless
monstrous and uministalably alive something
very much I ke gigantic crabs which move ther
claws and feelers crowd together and noiselessly
climb up the alls to the celling but if one looks
m re closely horns and it eri shadows for lean

light of the two engine lamps dazzles his eyes for an instant and makes the night even blacker to him he so s to the station

The platform and steps of the station are wet Here and there are white patches of freshly fallen melting now In the station itself it i light and as hot as a steam bath There 1, a smell of par affin Except for the 1 ighing machine and 1 yellow seat on which a man wearing a guard s ur i form is asleep there is no furniture in the place at all On the left are two wide-open doors Through one of them the telegraphic apparatus and a lamp with a green shade on it can be seen through the other a small room half of it taken up by a dark cupboard In the room th lead guard and the engine driver are sitting on the windo v sill They are both feeling a cap with their fingers and

disputing That s not real b aver it s imitation says the engine-driver Real beaver is not like that Five roubles would be a high price for the whole

cap if you care to krow You kno v a great deal about it head guard s ys oftended Five oubles in deed! Here we vall ask the merchant Mr Malahin he says a ldr ssing th old man what

do you say 1 this imitation beaver or ral?
Old Malahin takes the cap into his hand and with the air of a connoiss ur p uches the fur blows on it shiffs t it and a contemptuous smile lights up his angry fa e

It must be imitation! he says gleefully Imit tion it i

A disput fill is Ti guard maintains that th cap is real be v r and th engin -d.i et a. I fa.ahi ty to pers I him that it is no In the middle of the rgument the old man udderly r members the object f his comm.

Bea er and cap is all ery well but the train s

tanding still gertleme h says Who is it w ar waiting for? Let us start

Let us th guard grees W w'll mok another cigarett and go on B1 ther ro need to be in a hurr. We hall be delay d at the next stat o artway

Why h ulc ? Oh will We are too much behald time If you ar lat t t tion you can t hip bein delyed t the ther st tons to lt the trains go th opposit spas Whether w set off row o n th. mornin w shant be numbe furteen We shill h to be number twenty three

And h w do you mak th to t

W II ther tis Malahin looks t the guard r ect and mutters

mechanically as though to himself God be my judge I ha eckoned t and ven

totted it down in a r t book we l e wasted that's four hours tanking till on the 1 urney If you go on lik this either the cattle li lie, or they won t p y m two r ubles for th meat when I do get ther It's n t tra elli but ruination.

The guard raises his ev b w and s he with an air that seem to say All that is unhappil true The engine direct sits ident dreamin looking at the cap From their faces one cut see that they have a secret thought in common which they do not utter not because they want to conceal it but because such thoughts are much better expressed by signs than by words. And the old man understan is. He feels in his pocket takes out a ten rouble note and without preliminary words without any change in the tone of his voice or the expression of his face but with the confidence and directness with which prol ably only Russians give and take by tes he gives the guard the note. The latter takes it folds it in four and without undue haste puts it in his pocket. After that all three go out of the room and a lang the sleeping guard on the way go on to the platform.

What weather! grumbles the head guard shrugg ng his shoulders You can't see your

hand before your face

Yes it a vile weather
From the windo v it be can see the flaxen head
of the telegraph clerk appea beside the green lamp
and it e telegraph clerk appea beside the green lamp
and it e telegraph is appraixing soon after another
head bearded and ves 1 g a red ap appears
beside it—no doubt that of the stat on master
The stat a mast r bends do un to the table reads
something on a blu form ray dly passing his
chair it along the lin...s Malaling ces to his
vas

The young man his companion is still half red n ng and hardly audibly strumming on the acc rd n. He is little mor than a boy with no trace of a moustache his full. ht cace with its broad che k bones is childishly dreamy his eyes

ha e a melan i is and trangual lack unlike that of a gr n ut 1 rson b t he is broad stronher y n1 11k th oliman he does not sta nor hitt posit n as though he is n t equal to m a his big body. It seems as though any tro en at he mad would t riss ci ties and he so n 1 y as t fright n both him and the cattl

I'r m under I s b g f t fr ers that clumsily peck out th stops and keys f th ac ordion corres a ste dy flow f th t kling sourd which bl ad into a s mp mon t o little tune he listens to it and is d ily mu h rl a ed with fus per form n e

A bell rings b t with uch in filed note that it seem t m fr m far w y A hurried second bell soon fill we then thid and the guards whist! A minut pales in prifu distens th van does t mo e t t ne t ll but ague sounds begin to come fr in beneatl it 1k th crunch of

snow nder sledge-runners th an begins to sh ke and the sound ease 'il nee cigns a am B t now comes the 1 nk of buffers the v olert shock makes the n start and it wer m = 2 lu ch forward and all the cattl fill gant one another

M s you be er ed th same in the world to come grumbles th ld man setting straight his cap wh h had sl pred n th ba k of his head from the jolt liell main all my cattle 11 ths

lah gets up w thout a word and taking o c of the fallen beauts by th h rn. h lps it to get on t it legs. The polt I li wed by a

11

stillness again. The sounds of crunching snow come from under the van again and it seems as though the train had moved back a little

There vill be another jolt in a minute—says the old man—And the convulsive quiver does in fact run along the train there is a crashing sound and the bullocks fall on one another again

It s a job! says Yasha listening train must be heavy It seems it won t move

It was not heavy before but no v it has sud denly got hea 'y No my lad the guard has not

some shares with him I expect Go at d take him something o he will be jolting us till morning Yasha takes a three roubl note from the old min and jumps out of the van The dull thud of

hi heavy footstep resounds outside the van and gradually dies away Stillness In the next van a bullock tters a prolonged subdued moo as though it were s nging

Yasha comes back Y old damp wind darts

into the van
Shut the door Yasha and will go to bed

says the old man Why burn a andle for nothing?

Yasha moves the ne vy door there is a sound f a vhistle the ong ne and the train set ff

It's cold mutters the old man stretching himself on the cape and laying his head on bundle. It is very different at home! It's arm and clean and soft and there is room to say our prayers but her 'e are worse off than any pigs. It's four days and nights since I have taken off my books.

Yash t gg ring from the jolting of the train, opens the lantern and snuffs out the vick with his wet fr ers. The h !t flares up hisses like a frying ran and goes out.

her my ld Malln goes on as he feelyashal do n besid t m and the young man's huge bak luddl gau t his own its cold There's a drau ht form ery erc if your

There is a drau hit form ery er c. If your moth or your sister we to sleep here for one light thy y vild be dead by morn in. Ther it is school like our broth r is no unust take the cattle with y ur f ther. It is your own f ult you have my your if it blame. Your brothers are asleep in their beds the arming under the bedclothes but y ur the careless and lazy on are

in the same box as the catti tes.

The lid manes werds are naud blength above of the train but for a location he goes in mutter.

ning Ngh q and decaring in the at an occided are in the railway an grows the care and more studing. The pungent odour of fresh dan and moundaring candl makes it or repul a darf and the titure tesh asha the t and cheet as he fall askep. He oughs and seezes while though and the seezes while though and the seezes while the number of the number of the seezes while the will have the seezes while the seezes while the number of the number

rer by clears his th oat

To j dg from ti way ng of th wan and the
rattl of th wheels th train is moving rap db'
and unevenly Th engine breithes heavily
snorting out of tim with the pulsatin if the train
and all ther ther is a medley if sounds. Th

bullocks huddle together uneasily and I nock their horns against the wall When the old man vakes up the deep blue sky

of early morning 1 peeping in at the cracks and at the little uncovered window He feels unbearably cold especially in the back and the feet. The train is standing still Yasha sleepy and morose is bu y with the cattle

is bu y with the cattle

The old man vakes up out of humour I frown
ing and gloomy be clears his throat angruly and
looks from under his brows at Vasha who supporting a bullock with his possers it is shoulder and
slightly lifting it is trying to die entangle its leeI fold you last might the the cord ere too
long Datldy There's no mak in you do any
thing you will have everything you own vay
Blockhead!

Blockhead ! He anguly moves the door open and the light ushes nto the v n A pas enger train is standing exactly opposit the door and behind it a red building with a roofed in platform— a big station with a refreshm at bar. The roof and bridge of with a refreshm in that The roof and bridges of the trains the earth the sleepers all are covered with at it is coating of the fly freshly fallen snow in the space between the arranges of the passenger train the passengers can be seen no ring to and fro and a red haired red faced gendarme walking up and down a vait in a frock coat and a snow white shirt fir it looking cold and sleepy and prob by very much dis sits fid vith! The is running all ng the platform carryin, a glass of tea

and to o rusks on a tray

nothing all day but eat and drink and I il be bound se forgot to put down what we spent What a

memory Lord have mercy on us!

The old man recalls aloud the expenditure of the day before and writes down in a tattered notebook where and how much he had given to guards

engine-drivers oilers

Meanwhile the passenger train has long ago gone off and an engine runs backwards and for wards on the empty line apparently vithout any definite object but simply enjoying its freedom. The sun has risen and is playing on the snow lright drops are falling from the station roof and the tops of the vans Ha ing finished h s tea the old man lazily

saunters from the van to the station. Here in the middle of the first class witing room he sees the fam har figure of the guard standing beside the station master a young man vith a handsome beard in a mag fiscent rough woollen overcoat The young man probably n w to his position st nds in the same place gracefully shifting from one foot to the other like a good racehorse looks from side to side sallites everyon that passes by sm les and screws up I is eyes passes by sail to said sections of 118 eyes. It is red checked sturdy and good humoured his face is full of eagerness and is as fresh as though he had 1 st fallen from the sky rith the feathery snow. See n. Mal hin the pua d sigl s guiltily

and throws up his hands

We can't go number sourte n he says We are very much behind time Anoth r train has gone with that numbe

1 6 THE TALES OF TOMEHON

The on mast r railly le s throu h some frms t m turns ha be tue eas upon Malah ri his f c r dant with smiles and fresh e show is a e m son Lm

You ar Mr Malati You have the cattle? Eight anloads What is to be d re row? You a.elt dilt amber farteen go in the right Whtarwtd now

The v u man discrett takes hid f the far of Malahin co tw th two p th angers and hift has from one foot to the thr xplans affa ly and convincingly the total and to mumbers have gone alread and the subsection of the duch ar gone and the head and the subsection of the s Malahin, but th while world-h s so h ppy so pleased and so deletted The lift man littles, and though h can mak absol t ly the of the urtreate system f numbers... the trains he nods has head pror ungly and h too put two finers on the soft wool of the routh out H enjoys seeing and hearing the politie and g and young man To show goodwill on his c. also h takes out ten ouble not and after moment thought adds a coupl of oubl otes t t and go es then t the si tion master. The latter takes there put his finger t his cap and grac fully thru t them

into his pocket Well gentlemen can tw arran this? he says, kindled by a new dea that has flashed on him The troop train is I t a you see t is not her so why houldn't you go as

the troop train? And I will let the troop train go as twenty eight Fh?

If you like agrees the guard

Excellent 1 the station master says delighted

In that case there is no need for you to wait
here you can set off at once I il dest atch you
immediately Excellent

He salutes Malahin and runs off to his room reading forms as he goes. The old man is very much pleased by the conversation that has just taken place he smiles and looks about the room as though looking for something else agreeable

Well h ve a drink though he says taking the guard s arm

It seems a little early for drinkin

No you must let ne treat you to a glass in a friendly way

They both go to the refreshment bar After

having a drink the guard spends a lon time select ing something to eat He is a very stout lderly man with a puffy and die loured fac His fatnes is impleasant

flabby lo king aid l is s llow as peopl are who dr nk too much and sl p rrc ularly

And novemit have a econd glassays
Malahin Its cold now its no sin to drink Plas th some So I can rly upon you Mr Guard that there vill be no hindr nce or un pleasantness for the rest of the journey For y u knov a moving cattle e ry hour is precious

Thi did pellyflipift pift ps 5 Bdth toop 1 h b l pittes god dges pdlyl dygood tra — Alt Vf

nechanically the old man takes two twenty kopeck neces out of his pocket and gives th m to the older. It takes them very calmly too and lool ing good a uredly at the old n an enters into conversation. You are going to sill your cattle I suppose

It s good business

Malal in sighs and locking calmly at the oiler s plack face tells him that trading in cattle used certainly to be profitable but no it has become risly and loing business

I hav a mate here the oiler interrupts him You merchart gentlem n mi ht make him a

ittle present

Walahir gi s som thing to the mate too. The iroop train goes quickly and the vaits at the stations ar compa ati ely short. The old man stations ar compa att ely short. The old man is pleased. The Jleasant unpression made by the young man in th. rough o croc tha gone leep the odds. I has d ink slightly Jouds his brain the wather is magril ceit. In deverything seems to be going well. It talks ithout casin, and at e. ry stopp n. pl. e. run to th. r freshment bar. Felin the n. ed. of a listen. It takes ith him first the gurd and then the engine drie rand does not simply drink but makes a long business of t with suital remarks and clinking of giasses

guasses
You hay our jol and we have urs he sys with an ait ble sn le May God p osper us and you in do tou will but Hi be don.
The sika gralually exites him and his worked up to a great p tch of energy. He wints to bestur himstlf to fuss about to male enquires.

13 THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

to talk in 'ss ntly. At one minute he fumbles nh park t a d b ndles and looks for some form Th nh ti inks of som ti ing and cannot remember it it tak's out it pocket book and with no ort f bi t ounts er his money He bustles

about sighs and gr ans clasps his hands Lying ut bef him the letters and telegrams of m the meat less n in the city bills post office d telegraph c receipt forms and his notebook h filt all ud and in ists on Yashas

1 ste g A d when h is tir d of re ding over forms and t lking abo t p ces h g t out t the stopping plac's unst the an where is cattle are does nothing but ply clasps his hands and exclaims n horr r

Oh dar h dear h avs in complaining or e Holy Martyr Vlassy Though they are b llocks though they are beasts y t they want to e t and drink as min do

It s four days and night since they have d unk or eaten Oh

dear toh dear t

Yasha f llow h m a d does what he is told like an obcdient son He does not lk the old man's freq nt visits to the effeshm nt bar Though his fr d fh father he cann t ref am i m marking n t

S you have begun alre dy! he says looking sternly at the ld man. What are you rejo cing
t? I tyour named y r wh t?
D n t y u dar t ach y f ther

Fin g ng on!
When he has not to foll who fith along the

other vans Yasha sits on the cape and strums on the accordion Occasionally he gets out and walks larily beside the train he stands by the engine and turns a prolonged unmoving stare on the wheels or on the workmen tossing blocks of wood into the tender the hot enview wheezes the falling block come down with the mellow hearts thud of fresh wood the eng ne driver and h as 1 tant very phlegmatic and imperturbable persons per form incomprehens ble mow ments and don't lurry thems lives. After standing for a while by the engine Yasha saunters lazily to the station here lie looks at the estables in the refreshment bar reads aloud ome quite uninteresting notice and goes back slowly to the cattle van His face expresses neither boredom nor devire apparently he does not care where he is a thome in the van or by the engine.

Towards evening the train stops near a big station. The lamp have only just been lighted along the line against the liue background in the fresh limpid air the lights are bright and pale like stars they are only red and glowing under the station roof where it is already dark. All the iner are loaded up with carriage and it cems that if anoth r train came in there would I e no place for it. Yasl'a runs to the station for boil ing water to m ke the evening tea. Well diressed ladies and high schot lobys are walling on the platform. If one looks into the distance from the platform there are far away lights twinkling in the evening dusk on both sides of the station—that is the town. What town? Yasla does not care

THE TALES OF TCHEHOA

to know H sees only the dim I ghts and wretched buildin by o d tl station lears the cabrier shout f.l sharp cold and on his face and image es that th t m is probably disagreeabl

nncon fortable nd dull

13-

While they ar ha un, tea when it is quite dark and a lantern is han ing on the wall a ain as on the prev us evenin that ain quers from a shah shock and b gins iro a b ward After going a little way t t ps th y hear ndistinct shouts someone sets th har clinks near the buffers and shouts R dy The train mo es and goes forward. Ten min tes late it is dra, ed b ck agaın

G tting ut I the an Malah n does not reconize his t ain. His ght ans I bullocks are tanding n th sam www th some t ll vs which were n ta part f the trai befor Two three of these are 1 ded 1th ubbl and th others are mpty The guard running t and fro on the platform ar tran ers They gr un illing and

nditint a maw rs t his quest ins. They have no thou h t spar for Malahin thy are in a hurry to g t th tr n to ther so a to finish as soon as poss bl and b b ck the warmth Wh t number this asks Malah n

N mber ght en

And wher the troop trum? Why he you tak m fith toop trum?

Gett g n answer th ld man goes to th t ton H look first f th familiar from f the head guard and n t finding him goes to the st ton master. The tate of master sitting at a table in his own room turning over a bundle of forms. He is busy and affects not to see the newcomer. His appearance is impressive a cropped lack head prominent ears a long looked no e a swarthy fact, he has a forbidding and vs. it, ere offended expression. Malahim begins mixing its compliant at great lingth.

What? queries the station master. How

What? queries the station innster. How is this? he leans against the back of his chair and goes on growing indignant. What is it? and why shouldn't you go by number eighteen? Speak more clearly I d'n't understand. How is it? Do you want me to be everywhere at once?

He showers questions on him and for no apparent reason grow at rner and sterner Malahim is already feeling in hi pocket for his pocket book but in the end the stat on master aggreeved and indi nant for some inknown reason jumps up from his seat and runs out of it er room. Malahim shrugs his shoulders and goes out to look for some one else to speak to

From boredom or from deere to put the finith is stated to a busy day or simply that a window with the in.cription. Teleraphis on the tackets his eye he goes to the windo and expreses a learn to send off at 1 gram. Taking ip a pen he thinks for a moment and writes on a blue form

Urgent Traffic Manager Eight vans of live stock Delayed at every station kindly send an express nun b r Reply paid M lahin Having ent off the tel gram he goes back to the

station master s room There he finds sitting on

a sofa co cred with gray of the a benevol nt look for he is we ring peculiar o ercoat very much like all ds a edged with lur with from and alast ed lees es An Al er genti man, dried up and si, ewy w aring the uniform of a ailway aspector stands facio... him

Just think fit says the in-pector ddressin, the genti.man n ti queer over o t. I'll tell you an no dent the tralls is Az. Th. Z railway nth corlect pos. Il w s stol three hundred truk I m th 1 It fact sur I swear

t Thy T ith mot put ted them put ther liters n th m d that all about it The \ln nd t g t rysher they hunt and hunt \text{And the n--can y u m gt it \text{?--} and unit to the case you can ge it to the Company by not one upon by down carriag of the Lin The protection of the depot and all times bloom as east now mark on the wheel Whill use that Eh? It is do they will send in to S berta. but the ailw s companes simply nap their fingers t t

It is pleasant t Mal h n t tilk t ed ated cultured peopl. He tr kes his beard ind joins n the con its tion with d mut;

Tak thus cas gentl m n t instanc h

says I am tran porting cattl t \ Et ht

and transporting cattiff and transporting cattiff and and transporting cattiff and transporting they clear greef the and lass we have the transporting the greef that the significant and transporting transporting to the cattiff and transporting transpor

looking for his father. He listens and is about to sit down on a chair but probably thinking of his weight goes and sits on the window sill

They don't take any notice of that Malahin goes on and charge me and my son the thril class fare too forty two roubles for going in the van with the bullocks. This is my son't alway land that the rathways have runed the cattle trade in old days when they drove them in herds it vas better.

The old man's talk is lengthy and drawn out.
After every sentence he looks at Yasha as thou he would say See how I arr talking to clever
people
Upon my word the inspector interrupts him one criticizes. And

No one is indignant no one criticizes And why? It is very sumple. An abomination str less the eye and arouses indignation only when it is exceptional when the established order is broken by it. Here where saving your presence it constitutes the long established provramme and forms and enters into the basis of the order itself. Mere every sleeper on the line bear the trace of it and stinks of it in too easily grows accustom d to it!

The second bell rigs it e gentleman in the queer overcot g is up the in pector t kes him by the arm and still talking with herit g es off with him to the platform After the third bill this station master runs into his room indisits down at his table.

Malahin lays out b fore him forms postal and telegraph recepts accounts He does not know himself definitely what he wants of the gen darme he wants to describe in the proto ol not any separate episode but his whole journey with all his losses and conversations with station masters—to describe it lengthly and vindetively

At the station of Z he says wite that the station master unlinked my wans from the troop train because he did not like ny countenance

And he wants the gendarme to be sure to mention his countenance The 1 tter listens wearily and goes on writing without hearing him to the end He ends his protocol thus

The above deposition I non commissioned office Tchered have written down in this protocol with a view to present it to the head of the Z section and have handed a copy thereof to Gavril Malahim

The old man takes the c py a lds it to the papers ith v hich his side pock t i stuffed and much pleased goes back to his an

pleased goes back to his an

In the morning Mal hin wake" ut again in a bad
himour, but his wrath vents itself not on has a

but the cattle

The cattle ared ne for! he grumbles

They

are lon for They are at the last gasp God be my judge they will all die Tfoo

The bullo ks v ho have had nothing to drink for

many days tortured by thirst are licking the hoar frost on it wall and hen Malahin goes up to them they begin licking his coli fur jacket. I om their clear tearful eyes it can bis een that they are

exhausted by thirst and the joiting of the train

that they ar hungry and ruser ble
It sa nice job taking you by sail you retched brutes mutters Malahin I ould wish you were dead to g t it o er It makes me sick to

look at you At midday ille train t ps at a big st tion where according to the relations ther was drinking water provided freatth

Water is en ent th attl b t tl e bullocks will not drink it it w ter is ton oil

Two mrd vs nin ht; s nd t last in the district thin k f thit; omes nto sight. The jump's Thit in comes to a standst liber h the nar goods station Th bullocks I sed fr m tl an stagger and tumbl as the ghith www wilking on slippers

Having got the ugh th unloading and term ary inspect on M Iah n and M f t k p their quarters a drty i pitcl th ut kirts of th town, in th squ r in wi h th cattle-market is held. The riodgings at rithy and their food is deguting only what they ever ha e at home thy leep to the hards r am fa wretched steam hurdy gurdy which plays I v and meht in the estaurant under thur lad g

The old man spends his tim from morning till night going bout looking for pulchaser and hasha sits for days in the h tel room I goes out into the st eet to look at th town H sees the filthy

square heared up with dung the signboards of restaurants the turreted walls of a monastery in the fog Sometimes he runs across the street and looks into the groc r s shop admires the jars of cakes of different colours vawns and lazily saunters back to his room. The city does not interest him

At last the bullocks are sold to a dealer Malabin hires drovers. The cattle are divided into herds ten in each and driven to the oth r end of the town The bullocks exhau t d go with drooping heads through the nor y streets and look indiffer ently at what they see for the fir t and last time in their lives. The tattered drovers vall, after

them their heads drooping too. They are bored Now and then some drover starts out of his brooding remembers that there are cattle in front of him entrusted to his charge and to show that he is doing his duty brin s a stick do n full swng on a bull ck b ck The bullock staggers with the pain runs for ard a dozen

paces and looks bout him as though he were ash med at bong beaten b fore people

After selling the bullocks and buying for his family presents such as they could p rfectly well hav bought at home Malahin and Y sha get ready for their journey back. Three hours before the train goes the old man, who has already had a drop too much with the purchaser and so i fussy goes down with Yasha to the restaurant and s ts down to drink t a L ke all provincials he cannot eat and drink alone he must have company as fussy and as fond of sedate conversat on as himself

pieces in all directions and says in a sing son voice Good bye good health to you God grant that all may be well with you I leas God if w

are alive and well we shall come again in Lent Good bye Thank you God bless you!

Getting into the sled e the old man spends a long time crossing himself in the direction in which the monastery walls make a patch of darkness in the fog Yasha sits beride him on the very edge of the seat with his legs hangin over the side His face as before shows no sign of emotion and ex presses neither bored in nor desire. He is not

glad that he is goin home nor sorry that he has not had time to see the sight of the city Drive on The cabman whips up the horse and turning round begins a vearing at the heavy and cumber some luggage



SORROW

THE turner Grigory Petrov who I ad been k own for years past as a splendid craft man and at the same time as the most sens less peasant if the Galtchinskoy d strict v as taking his old woman to the host ital He had to drive over twenty miles and it was an awful road A government post driver could hardly have coped with it much less an incomp tent slu gard like Grigory cutting cold wind was blo vin straight in his face Clouds of sno vilakes were whirling round and round in all directions so that one could not tell hether the sno v was falling fro n the sky or rising from the earth. The fields the telegraph posts and the forest could not be seen for the for of snow And vien a particularly violent gust of wind swooped down on Grigory even the yoke above the horse's head could not be seen wretch'd feel! little nag crayled slowly along It took all its strength to drag its legs out of the sno v and to tug with its head. The turner was in a hurry. He kept restlessly hopping up and down on the front scat and lashing the horse's back

Don't cry Matryona he muttered Have a little patien e Please God we shall reach the losp tall and in a trice it will be the right thin fo you P el I mutch ill gi e you som ittl dr > or tell th m to bleed you or maybe! ! nour will be pl a ed to rub you with some sort fsprt-itll draw t ut f your

d Pa el I nitch vill d his best He will sh ut and stamp bo t but h will do his best

If is a n c g t man affabl God give him

health As soon w get there he will dart out of his room and will begin calling me n mes

of his room and will begin calling men in mes H? Why on h will cry Why didy un toom the ghit? I am not a dow to be higher about the one of the morning? Go way of unif mit of man to mornrow And I hall sa M Doct P II annitch Tour han un to d pleut k, you you d i Get 11

The turner lashed his n and with ut looking at the old w man w nt n mutter ng t himself You hon ur It tru as b fore God

he es the Cross fr v u I set if almost b for it w light H ould I be her n time if th Lord the M ther of God is T th and has sent such a su wst rm? Andis look fo sourself E n a test te horse could not do t while mine-you can see for yours if-is n t do t white mine—you can see for yours (t—is nt a horse but a di or And P el I nitch will frown and hout W know you You alway find some excuse Especialle y u G shh. I know you f ld I'll be bo nd v a h est pped at half ado ant erns And I shall y Y ur h nour! am I a er minal o a heath nf My ld woman is giving up her soul to God she is dyin and am I going to run from tavern to tavern What an idea upon my word! Pligue take them the taverns! Then Pavel Ivanitch will order you to be taken into the hospital and I shall fall at his feet Pavel Ivanitch Your honour we thank you most humbly I rgive us fool and anathemas don't b hard on us peasants! We deserve a good kicking whil you graciously put yourself out and mess your fe t in the sno v And Pavel Ivanitch will give me look as though he would like to hit me and vill say Youd much better not be stiling works you fool but tal ing tity on your old voman inst ! I falling at my feet You want a thrashing. You we right there—a thrashing Payel I anite! trike me God But how can ve h lp bown do vn at your feet if you are our benefactor and a real fath to us? Your honour I give you my word her s Sour monour igne you my won me s you may spit in my face if I deeve you a soon s my Matryona this same here is ell gan and restored to ler natural condition. Ill m ke anything for your honour that you would like to order! A eig rettee-use I you like of the best brich vood balls for croquet shattles of the most foreign pattern I can turn I will make anything for you! I vont take a farthing from you. In Moscow they would charge you four rubles for such a ciparett cas but I won take a farthing. The doctor will But it a p ty y u are a dr nkard

But it a p ty y u are a dr nkard

I know
how to mana e the gentry old g l

There isn t

a gentleman I couldn't talk to O Ji God er nt we don't s' t off the road Ol bow it is blowing! On seves are full f now

1 d th turner went on muttering endle h He pr tiled on mechanically to get a little reli f

f m hs d p exing feel a H had plents of words on his t gu but the thou his and quest one in his brain wire ev n more numerous

Sorrow had come upon the turner unawates. unlooked for and ur vected and now Le could not get o er it c uld not reco et himself. He had I ed hitherto in unr filed alm as thou h in drunken half-consciou ness knowing neither grat nor 1 y and n w h was sudd nly ware of a dreadful pain n h s heart. The care es idler and drunkard found himself quit addenly in th position fabusy man w hadd on by anxieties

and hat and e en tru line th nature Th turner rem mbered th t his troubl had begun th e e ing befor Wh n h had com home vesterd vev mmg a little drunk as usual and from long-est blished h b thad begun wearing and

hakin h fists his ld woman h d looked at her rowdy pouse as she had never looked a him befor Usually th express number ged eves was the tof a martyr meek like that of a dog frequ nils beaten and hadly fed this time she had looked at him sternly and ammo ably as saints in the h ly p tures or dying peopl look. From that stran e "il look in her eyes the troub! had berun The turner stupefied with amazement borro ed a horse fr m a net bloom and now was taking his old woman to the hospital in the hope that by means of

powders and ointments. Pavel Ivanitch would bring bark his old woman's habitual expression

Dak his old woman's habitual expression
I say Martyona I le turner muttered
if Pavel Ivanitch a ks you wiether I b at you
say Never and I nev rwill beat you again
I swear it And did I ever beat you out of spite?
I just I cat you vitl out thinkin, I am sorry for
you Some men wouldn't trouble but here I am you Some men wouldn't trouble bit nere I am taking you I am doing my bet And th way it snows th vay it snows Thy Wil be done O Lord God grant vont get off the road Does your side ache Matryona that you don't speak. ? I ask you does your's de ache? It struck him as strange that the snow on his old voman's face vas not melting it vas queer that the face itself looked som ho drawn and

had turned a pale grey d n v vaxen hue and had grown grave an i ofemn

You are a fool muttered the turner I tell you on I y conscence tefo e God and you go and Well you are a fool I have a good min1 not to take you to Pavel Lamter

The turner let the reins go and I gan thinking
He could not bring h mself to look round at his
old voman he vas frightened. He vas afraid
too of sking her a question and not getting an
answer At I st to make an ind of uncertainty vitiout looking round he f it his old voman's cold hand. The lifted hand fell like a l g

She is dead then What a busin s !
And the turner cried He was n t so much sorry

as annoyed He thought hoy quickly everything

passes in the world. His trouble I ad I ardly begun when the final cate trap clad lappered. He had not had t me to levith is oll woman to slow her he v ssorry for h r bef re she died. He had I ved with her for forty years but if ose forty years had passed by as it ere n a fog. What with d. unh meys quart. It ard prierry ther had been ro feeling of hie and as though to sp te him his ld woman died at the cry t me when he felt he was sorry for he that h could not he vithout her and that he had beha ed drea Hully badly to her

Why she used to go the round of the Hage h retrembered I s at h r out myself to beg for bread Wh t a business She ought to have for oreal with a visities of steady to g as it is I il be bound she thinks I really sith is g as it is I il be bound she thinks I really sith is sort of nan Holy Mother! but whir the dellam I driving? There's no need fraid it rhow but

a bur al Turn back t

Grigory turned tack an I lashed the horse ofth all his might. The road grew worse nd worse e cry hour to he couldn't so the yok at all. Not and then ties led gan int a ying fir tree a dark beet ser thede the turne hind and flathed before his eyes indith hild fix soon was white and whirling again

To I e over again th ught the turner

To 1 e over again to ugus the turner.

He rem imbered that forty years ag Mattyon
had been young handsome m y that 'e kad
com of a well to-do family Th y had are ed
her to him because they had be n tit ted by k s
handicrift All th essent als fra lappy hif

had been there but the trouble was that just as he had got drunk after the weddin, and lay sprawlin on the store so he had gone on without waking up till now His weddin, he remembered but of what happ ned after the wedding-for the life of him he could remember nothing except perhaps that he had drunk lain on the stove an I quarrelled Forty years had been vasted like that The white clouds of snow were be inning little

by little to turn grey It was getting dusk

Where am I going? the turner suddenly

bethou ht him with a start I ought to be think ing of the burial and I am on the way to the hos It is as though I had gone crazy pital Grigory turned round ag un and again lashed his

forse The little na strained its utmo t and with a snort fell into a little trot. The turn r lashed it on the back time after time A knocking was audible behind him and though he d d not look round he knew it was the dead woman's head knock n. against the sled e And the sno v kept turning darker and darker the vind gre v colder and more cutting To I ve over again thought the turner

I should get a new lathe take orders mie tle money to my cld voman

And then he dropped the reins He looked for them tred to pick them up but could not-his hands would not work

It does not matter he thought the horse will go of it elf it knows the vay I mi ht lave a little sleep no Before th funeral or the requi mit voil i be as well to get a little rest

The turner closed his eyes and dozed A little later h heard the horse stop he opened his eyes and saw before him somethin dark like a hut or a havstack

H would ha e got out of the ledge and found out what it was but h felt o ercome by such nertia that I seemed better to freeze than move and h sank int a peaceful sleep

H w L up in a bg oom w th painted wall Bright such ht was streamin in at th windows Th turner saw peopl f can ham and his first

feeling was a des r to how him lf respectabl man who knew how things huld b d ne A requiem brothers f my old w man he

said. The priest should be told Oh all rift all ri ht I d wn a oice cut him hort

Pa el Ivanitch th turner cried in surpr se seeing the doctor befor him I ur h nou henefactor

He wanted t leap up nd fall n his knees before the doctor but felt that his arms and legs would n t bey him

Your honour wher are my legs wher ar

my arms ? Sy good by to y ur arm and less They re been Lozen off Com me

What are you crying fr? Yu hed ur life and thank God for t I suppose u ha e had sixty years of t—that enou h for you

I am grieving Gr cionsly forgi me If I could hav another fi o x years

What f ?

The horse isn't mine. I must give it back I must bury my old woman How quickly it is all er ded in this world! Your honour Tavel

Ivanitch! A cigarette-case of birchwood of the best! Ill turn you croquet balls Ti e doctor went out of the ward with a wave of

his hand It was all over with the turner

ON OFFICIAL DUTY

ON OFFICIAL DUTY

Fire deputs examining right trate and the district doctor were going, to an inquest in the vidage of Syrnya. On the road they vere or risk. I y a snowstorn they spent alirg time going round and arrived not at midday as they lad intended but in the evening when it was lark. They put up for the ingilt at the Zemstvo but it o happened that it vias in this hui that the dead body was 1 jug—the corps of the Zemstvo insir ance agent. I. nitsky who I ad arrived in Syrnya three days b fore and ordering the same ar in the but hal shot hims II to the grint up rise of everyone and the fait that he I de nded his his so strangely, after unpackin his eatables and alying this nout on the table and vii the samovar before I im led many popt to suspect that it was a case of murder an unusets was necessary.

In the outer room the doctor and the examining mag strate shock the snow off themsel e and knocked to ff their bood old village constable flya Lorhadin stood by holding a little tin lamp there was a strong smell of paraffin

Who are you? ask d the d ctor Conshtable answered the const ble

VOILBRE TO SELVE HIT

Hermit polit st wind smind therees sittle an

At with wire of

Hy with provide seert mor"

the thwas the puller trailless or groven on the lets kitch with a like and slower gas less refer to a lets. The doct and the xr is grown to flowed.

ty the o stall f in th lamp hist above his lead went int the taller Her a ill by teal well into the later Her a in the long to vice or relief with 1 here as by on the Boltest had been the later to the

oft d libeds () ti tall t d arro ar collie go and and ten le ly the ea l m T s. t needs in th / two but fow tactles ad I docter. If red we want to

put a built than has but a consult to do teath one near outloose

Hankont a bench the bewards can be fur coat and has fit serious to flow triteLet the examining monitrit sat down

phoos te These historical neura than people of g at evous a the doctor went in the H eurasian them is easy in the sair room we house he ruther his newspaper when he does with you I gets up a sect with his he with the history to the people of g esence and when he does not have been a few to short him. self he shoots himself in a village in a Zenstvo hut so as to give the maximum of trouble to every body. These gentlemen in every circumstance of life think, of no one but themselves! Thirt's why the elderly so di like our nervous age

Sick of life depressed but you must admit that he might ha e shot I ims If s mewhere else Such tro ble sad the corstable such trouble Its a roal affili tor The p ople are

trouble It's a real affli tior. The p ople are ry much upset your h nour they haven t slept these three nights. The chill it n are crym. The cons ought to be miked but th women wont go to the stall—they are afraid for far the gentleman should app ar to it em in the darkness. Of course they are silly vom n but some of the men are frightened too. As soon as it is dark they wont go by the hut on by one but only in a flock together. And the witness's too.

Dr Startchenko a middle-aged man in spectacles with Startchenko a middle-aged man in spectacles. I yahin a fair man still young who had only taken his degree two years before and looked more like a student that an ar official sat in silence mu ing Th y were vexed that they were late. Now they

tad to v t till morning and to stay here for the night th ug) it we snot yet six o clock and they he does it him a long evening a dark night boredom un mi rtabl beds beetles and cold in the d list ning to the blizzard that howled morni in ti ci ney and in the loft they both thought ho unlike all the was the life which they would

he closen for theresel es and of which they had nee dreamed and h w far away they both were fr m the r contemporaries who were at that moment walkin about th lighted streets in town without n ticin the ather or were getting ready f r th th atr or thing in their studies o er a book. Oh how much they would hav given no only t stroll all ng the Ne sky Prospect or along Petro ka in Moscow to h ten to d cent sing ing to sit f r an hour or so in a rest urant

Oo-oo-oo sang the storm in the loft and som thing outs de slammed cou ly probably

the southern the bat Occasion of the southern the southern the southern the stay here. Sa d Startchenk g tung up 115 not six yet to too early to go to bed I am off Von T unitz I es not far from here only a couple of miles from Syrnya I shill go to see him and spend the evenin the Constable ran and tell my co chinan n t to take the horses out And what ar you go ng to do? he asked Lyzhin

Idntkn w I expect I hall go to I cp
The doctor wrapped huns It in his fur coat and
w nt out Lyzhin could hear him talking t th achman and the b lis beginning to que er on the fron b ses Hedr off

It is not nice for you sir to spend the night in here said the constable come into the other room It's dirty but for one night it won't matter. Ill get a samovar from a peasant and heat it directly. I'll heap up som hay for you and then you go to sleep and God bless you your honour

A little later the examining magistr to yas sitting in the kitchen drinking tea viul Loshadir the constable was standing at the door talkin. He was an old man about sixty hort and erv thin bent and white with a na ve smill on his face and watery eyes and he kept smacking with his hips as though he were uckin a sweetmeat. He was wearing a st ort st expskin coat and high felt boots and held his stick in his hands all the time. The youth of the examining mayistrat aroused his compassion and that was probably thy h ad dressed him famil ariv

Gressen init ramii ariv. The elder gave ord is that he vas to be in formed whin the pol superintent lent or the examining magnitrate aim he said so I suppose I mu I go ro. It is nearly three miles to the olo i and th storm the snowd fits are son ethin, to rible—maybone von t get three before midingth. Ough how the wind roar.

I don't need the eld r said Lyzhin There is nothing for him to do here

He lock d at the old man with cur os ty and asked Tell m grandfatt r how many years have

you been con table?

How many? Why thatty years The years

162 after the F eedom I began going as constable that s how I reck n it And fr m that t me I have been how I reck nit And fr in that the I have been going ever day noe. Other people have holidars but I am always going. When it a Easter and the church bells are ringing and Christ has risen. I still go bout with my bag—to the treasury to the post to the police superint indent's lodgings to the trial captiant it the tax is spector to the immunicipal fit it gentry to the peasants to all orthodox Christ and I carry parcels in test tax papers letters forms it differ in sort car ulars and to be seen whether the property and the property of the peasants. sur kind gentl man ther ar all sorts of forms sur kind genti man ther ar all sorts of lorms mowadays so as to note d wit the numbers— y if w white and red—and every gentleman or priest or well to-d peasant must write down a dozen tunes in the year h w much he has sown and harvested how many quarters or poods h has of rye how many of oat how many of hay and what the weather so hy oat how and insect to of all the weather sik. you kn w and insect too of all sorts To be ure you an wrt e what y u like it sonly a egulation but on mu too and go out it sonly a egulation but on mu too and go out the not es and then go again and ollect them. Her for instance ther no need to cut open the gentleman you know yourself to a ully thing it sonly dutying y ur h nds and here you he been put to trouble your hour ur y u ha e come because it the r gulat on you can't help it. For thirty years I h been go g und according to regulation. In the summer it is all right it is warm and dry but n wint and utunin its uncomfort ble. At times I ha been almost drowned and almost from all sort of things he happened—wicked people set on me in th. forest and took away my bag. I have been beaten and I have been before a court of law

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What were you accused of?

Of fraud

How do you mean?
Why you see Hrisant Crigoryev the clerk sold the contractor ome tourds belonging to some one else—cheated him in fact. I was mixed up in

It They sent me to the tavern for vodha 'ell the clert, du not share with me—did not even offer me a glass but as through my poverty I was—ma papearance I mean—not a man to be r led upon not a man of any worth we were both brought to trial he was sent to priso to but prane Cod I was acquitted on all points They read a notice you know in the court. And thy were all in uniforms—in the court is mean. I can til you your honour my duites for anyone not used to the vie terrible absolutely kill ng bit to me it is nothing. In fact, my feet ache when I am not walking. And at home it is worse for me. At home one has to heat the stove for the clerk in the volest office to fetch water for him to clean his boots.

And what wages do you get? Lyzhin asked Eighty four roubles a year

Ill bet you get other little ums comine in

Other I title sums? No indeed! Gentlemen nowaday don't often give tips Gentlemen nowadays are strict they take offence at any thing. If you bring them a notice they are offended if you take pefore them they

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ar off nded You have come to the wrong entranc th y say You are a drunkard they av You sm ll of onnon you are a blockhead you ar the son of a b tch. There are kind hearted

av You sm'll of onion you are a blockhead you ar the son of a b to he re are kind hearted nes is used but what does one git from them? They only lauh, and call on all sorts of names Mr Altuhun fo instance he is a good natured gentleman and it you look at him h seems ober and n his right mind but so soon as he sees me he houts and does not know whith the means himself If ga eme such a nam. You said he will be the soon as he seem he houts and does not know whith the means himself If ga eme such a nam. You said he will be the soon as he seem he houts and does not know whith the means himself it ga eme such a nam. You said he will be the soon as he seems he houts and the soon as he seems he houts and be soon as he seems he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems he houts and he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he had he will be soon as he seems observed he had he will be soon as he had he

nours and does not know with the means number II gat eme such a nam. You said he The con t bl. uttered som word but in such a I w o ce that t was impossible to mak out what h said.

o ce that it was imposs Die to mak out vhat h said What? Lyzhin sked Say it ain Administration the constable repeated aloud H has been calling me th t for long

whil frih last i year Hull Adm mstra ti n But I don t mind I it him God bless him Gometimes a lady will s nd ri a glass f odka and a hit fpi and one drinks to her h alth But peasants gi e mor peasant ar m kind hearted they hav the far of God in the rhearts one will give a bit of the d in ther drop of cabbag soup an ther will stand in glass. The will e Mers treat on to tea in the aeri. Here the wineses ha e gon t their tea. Loshadin they said you ty her and keep watch for s and they ga m a kopeck each you see they are finghtened not being used to t ind yesterday they gave m fifteen kopecks in dollered m a elass.

And you aren't you fright ned?

I am sir but of course it is my duty there is no g tting away from it. In the summer I was taking a convict to the to vn and he set upon me and gave me such a drubbin! And all around were fields forest—how could I get away from him? It's just the same here I rem inher the gentleman Mr. I, misky thin he was so high and I knew his father and mother. I am from the village of Nedoshtchotova and they the Leenitsky family were not more than three quarters of a mile from us and I ss than that their ground next to ours and Mr Lesnitsky had a sist r a God f aring and tender hearted lady Lord keep the soul of Thy servant Yulya eternal me nory to her She was never marri d and when sh was dying she divided all her property she left three hundred acres to the monastery and six hundred to the commune of peasants of Nedoshtchotova to com memorate h r soul but her brother hid the will they do say burnt it in the stove and took all this land for himself. He thought to be sure it was for his beneft but— nay wait a bit you won't get on it the wild throu h injustice brother The gentleman did not go to confession for t venty years fter He k pt av ay from the church to be sur and died impeniter t He burst. He was a very fat man so h burst length ways Th nevery very lat man son burst tengti ways in nevery thing was taken from the young mas er from Seryozha to pay the del ts-everything there vas Wille had not gone very far in his studies he couldn't do anythin and the pres' dent of the Rural Board hi uncle—Illtakehim —Seryozha I mean—thinks he for an agent let him c llect

the insurance that's not a difficult job and the gentleman was youn and proud he wanted to be it ing on a big r scale and in better style and with more freed in To be sur it was a come-down for him to b jolting ab ut th district in awretched cart and talking to the peasants he would walk and keep looking on the ground looking on the ground and saying nothin if you called his name ri ht hke this Eh? and look down on the ground aram and now you se he has laid hands on him self There's no ase in it your honour it's not right and there's no makin out with the meaning of it merciful Lord Syy ur father was r ch and you ar poor t m rtilying ther no loubt about t but there y must make up your mind to it I used to h in good styl too I had two horses your honour three s I sed to keep twenty h ad of sh-ep but th tim has come and I am I ft with nothin but a ret hed bag and venthat an time but Government property And now in our \ed shich to a, if th truth is to be told my house is the worst if the lit. Makey had four footmen and n. M. k. s. a footman

hunself P trak h d f ur l bour r and now Petrak is a labourer b mself H w was it you becam poor? asked the

raminin, magi trat

My sons drink terribly I could not tell you

how th y drink y n wouldn t b h t

Lyzhin listened nd tho git h w h Lyzhin w uld go back sooner or later t Woscow whil this old man would stay her fo e er and would always be walking and walking And how many times in his life he would come across such battered unkempt old men not men of any worth in whose souls fifteen hopecks glasses of vodfa and a profound belief that you can't get on in this life by dishonesty were equally firmly rooted

man to bring him some hay for his led There was an iron bedstead with a pillor and a quitt in the traveller's room and it could be fetched in but the dead man had been lying by it for nearly three days (and perhaps sitting on it just before his death) and it would be disagreeable to sleep upon it now

Then he grew tired of listening and told the old

It's only half past seven thought Lyzhin glancing at his atch. Ho a full it is!

He as not sleepy but having nothing to do to pass away the time he lay down and covered himself with a rug. Losl adin went in and out. several times claring avay the teathings smacking his lips nd sighing he kept tramp ing round the table at last he took his little lamp and vent out and looking at his long grey headed bent figure from behind Lyzhin thought

Just like a magician in an opera

It as dark The moon must have been behind th cloud as the vindo vs and the sno von the window frames could be een distin the

Oo-oo oo oo sang the storm Oo oo-oo oo Ho-ho ly sa aints! 1 ailed a woman in the loft or it sounded like it Ho-ho-ly sa aints!

ıf3 THE TALES OF TOHERON

B-bool sem thing out ide banged against Trah the wall

The x mining m gistrate listened there was no woman pth t twas the wind loving It was ration oil and he put is fur cost o or lising is ing twarm h thought how rem to all this th torm and the hut and the old man and the

d ad body lying in the rext room-how remote tall was from the high desired for himself and how alien it all was to him how petty how timn

teresting If this man had killed himself in Moscow or corr wher in the neighbourhood and

thought of Moscow To h on must be t

h had had to h ld an nquest on him there it would ha been teresting important and per hans h rught e nh v been afraid t sleep in the next room to the orpse. Her nearly thou sand miles from M scow all this was seen somehow

an a different light t was not life they were not human beings but someth g nly risting accord-ing to the regul ti n as Loshadin said t would leav not the faintest trace n the memory and would be forgotten as soon as he Lyzhin drove away from Syrnya The I therl nd th real Russia, was Moscow P tersburg but here h was in the provinces the colonies. When a dreamed f playan, a leading part of bec it ing a popular f playing a reasons pare or over in a a proposa-figure of being for instance exam nin magis-trat in particularly import in cases or prosecut in a circuit court of bein society 1 n on always Moscow here on cared for n thing ne grew easily resigned to one s ms graficant post on and only expected one thing of life to get aw y

qui hly qui hly And Lyzhin mentally moved about the Mosco, streets v ent into the finalir houses met his kindred his comra les and therewas a sweet pang it his heart at the thought that he was a sweet pang it his heart at the thought that he was only twenty it and that if in five or ten years he could break away from here and get to Moscow even then it would not be too late and he vo mid still hav a whole life, before him and as I e sank into un consciousness as his thoughts began it be con fused he imagined the long corried r of the court it Moscow humself delivering, a speech his sisters the orchestra v high for som reason kept dron n, Oo oo-oo to oo oo oo too oo oo

Oc 00-00 00 Oc 00 00 00

Looh Trah sounded agan B oh And he sudd nly recalled by sone dy shen he was talking to the book keeper in the little office of the R ral Board a thin pile gertlen an with black hair and dark eyes walked in 1e had a disagreeable look in his eyes such as on sees in people to bo lay after d mer and it spoilt his delicate intelligent profil and the his boots have well as the summer of the seeper lad introduced him. This is our insurance agent

So that was Lesnitsky this same man

Lyzhun r flected n He re alled Leen tsky soft voice imagined his

gait and it seemed to lin that's meone's as walking beside him no with a stip like Le misky's.

All at once he felt frill tered his head turned cold.

Who s the e? he asked in alarm The conshiable!

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What do you vant here? I have one to ask your honour-you said this we no that you do I not yant the elder but

I m I aid he m y be any He told me to go to him Shouldn t I go?

That n ugh you bother m said Lyzhin with vix tion and be covered bir self up gain

He ra y be angry I ll go your lonour I h pe you will be comf rtabl and Loshadin

w nt ont

In the passage that was concluded under the state of the

Well I t these poor bregars get w verlv to-m rrow thought the x n ung maristrate will beguthe quest as soon as it's dayliel t

H began sinkin of rg tf lne wh n sud denly ther were st ps b n t t m 1 thi time but rap d and noise Tr r w tr 1 n 1 door

vo ces th scratching I m tch

At to subsect the first and the first the firs thim Ar vou asl p² test p Let is g to Von Timite H has s thi own h restry u Come along. Ther at any t vou will h supper and sleep lik tuma be Y u seel have ome for you mys lf The hrses r plendid we shall get there in twenty ir the

ini what tur is the w

\ quarter past ten. Lyzhin sleepy and discont nted p t on hi. f lt overboots his fir lined coat I is cap and hood and vent out vith the doctor. There was not a very sharp frost but a violent and piercing wind as blos ing and driving along the street the clouds of no v which seemed to be racin away in terror high drifts were heaped up already under the fences and at the doorways Tre doctor and the examin my magistrate got into the sledge and the white coachman bent over them to button up tf e cover They were both hot

Ready

They dro e through the villag Cutting a feath ry furrow thought the examining magis trate listlessly watching the action of the tracehorse's lees Thire vere I ghts in all the huts as norge's 1c,3 11.7c ever gats in all to nuts as though it were the e c of a great holiday the peasants had not gone to bod because they createrad of the clead body The coachman preserved a ullen silence probably te had I it deary while he was a uting by the Zemst o hut and not he too was thinking of the d ad man

At the Von Taunitz's and Startchenko they all set upon me v he i they he rd that you were I ft to spend the n ght in the hut and asked me hy I did not bru g you "it' me

As th y drove out of the village at the turnin the c act man suddenly shouted at the top of his voic Out of the vay

They caught a glimps of a man he was standing up to his knees in the snow moving off the road and starme at the torses. The examining magistrate sav a stick with a crook and a beard and a ha and he fance of that it was Loshadin

nd ven farcied that he was smilin. He flashed by and disappeared

The danaturation the ede e the forest then lag a broad forest cleann they can ht glumpes of old pines and a young birth copies and it is gnarled youn oal trees starding singly in the cleanings here the wood had lat by been in birt scon I was all rarged in the clouds of show. The co-chima said he could see the forest the vanning, marstrate could see rothing but the trace-horse. The wind blew on thir backs. All tonce the horses to need.

Well what is t now? asked Startchenko eros ly

The co chman g t down from the box without

a word and began run ou d the led e tread ing on his heel fremad lar er and larger circles getting, further and furth away from the sledge and it looked as thou h h w r dancing t last he came back and began to turn off to the right hour g t off the oad h? asked Start

chenko It s all ru ht

Then there was little ill and n t a single

In hit nit Again th fixes and the fill Again they lost the ead and again the coachinan got down from to. box and dan ed ourd the sledge The sled e few alo a dark a enu flew withly n. A d. the heatest tract horee book knocked aimst the led. Her ther was a fearful or army sound from the trees and nothine could be seen as thou he they ver flying on into space and all at once the glaring, but at the intrained

and the windows flashed upon their eyes and they I eard the good natured drawn out barking of dogs. They I a l arrived. While they were taking off their fur coats and their felt boots below. Un Petit Verre de Che

quot was being played upon the prino overhad and they could hear the children beating tine with their fect. Immediately on going in they were aware of the snug warmth and special smell of the old apartm nts of a mansion where what yer the weather outsid lif is so w rm and clean and com fortabl

That's capital! said \ n T unitz a fat nan with an incredit ly thick n ck and it! hiskers

as he shook the examining magistr tes hind.
That scapital You are try welco e delighted to make your equantanc. We recliegues to some extent you kn y. At on time I was deputy prosecutor but not for long nly two years I came here to lok after the est t and hr I have grown old-an old f g y in fact You are very \ leom he went n e dently restraining his voice so as not to speak to loud he was going upstairs with his guests I have no vife she's upstains with his guesso. I have no the ship dead But he I will introdu o my d ughters and turning round he stouted down the st irs in a voice of thunder. Tell Ignat to la eth sledge ready at eight o clock to incrow morning.

His fur daughters young and petty grls all wearing grey dies and with their har done up in the sime style and their clush also young and attractive will be holden were in the drawing room. Startchenko who knew them already

THE TALES OF TOURHOL LI

been at once beg u.s. then to sin something and two of the voing ladies spent a long time declars the ould rot .g. and that they had no mus then the coul in all down to the piano and within roun vices, they sain, a duct from The Queen of Spades Asian Lin Pet I verse de

Queen of Spaces and the children shapped about beating time with their feet. And Start chenko pranced about too. E erybody lan hed Then the children saud good in hit and went off to bed. The imming, magistrate lan bed. dan ed a q dru. fired and k pt wondermowh there as tall dram. The but hen of the whether it as tall or ari in the feet of the second of the best less the rate of the best less the wind the so we're the the second of the sounds of the plandid be the hinder second the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the hinder room the sounds of the plandid be the p the sounds of the pane the large in the second headed children the gay happy lengther—such a transferm ten seemed to him like a fairy tale and teemed incred by that such transitions were and t eemed neres of that sten transitions were
possible at the distance feom two miles in the
course of on hour and dreary the ubits preented him from enj ynn, hims lif and h kept
thinking this was not life he, but be of hif fragments that everythm here was accident that on could dr w no conclusions from t and

that on cold or who conclusions from 1 and he even fit sorry for the sub-who wer living and would end their lies in the wids, in a pr vince far aw 3 from the centre of cultur, wher nothing is secied tail, but everything is in accord once with reason and 1 w and where for instance, every

suited is int ligible so that one can explain thy it has happened and what is its significance in the general scheme of thines. He imagined that if the life surrounding him her in the vilds were not intelligible to him and if he did not se it it meant that it did not exist at all

At support he conversation turned on I esnitsky.

He left a wife an I of Id said Startch nko

I would forbid neurasthentes and Jul p opt whose nervous system is out of ord r te marry. I would deprive them of the light and possibility of n ultiplying their kind. To brin into the world nervous invalid children is a crime.

He as an unfortun te young man and Von Taunutz ighing gently and shaking his lad What a lot one mit suffer and think bout before one brings oneself to take on soor life a

one brings oneself to take on sour life a young if 'Suh a misfo tune my happen in any fam ly and that is a viul It i hard to bear such a thing insufi rable

And all the gris list ned in sil nce with grave f ces looking their fail r. Lyzl nf it that he too must say sometling but he couldn't think

of nything and mr ly s id

Yes ustid is an unle 1 ble pt nomenon the pt that a marri on in a soft bed covered to tha quilt under 1 bit hiere ever in clean sheets but for some reason did not feel comfortable perhaps be uses tie doctor 1 of Von T untra were for a long time talk ing in the adjoining r om and overhe! I he leard through the cell na din the stove tie indro ring just as in the Zem two hut and as obtaintively how him. O o one-one-of-

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to. I unit wi had died two years before, and h was till unable to even himself to his loss and whatever h was talking about always men i ned his wif and there was no trace of a reserver it if about him how

I t possibl th t I m v some day come to such a ondition thou ht Lynhin as he f il asleep still hearing thou hithe wall his host s subdued, as t were be eased view.

The examina, mach and d d not be psoundly H f lt hot and n mf ttabl and it eemed to him whish are the was of at Von Tamit and n tn of lean bed b trail in the hay at the Zent to hat han the bud-d onces of the witnesses h falsed to the Lesint k was close by n tittleen paces a v limit dearns her em in bered how the insurance ag nt black haired and pale, wearing dust high boots h d come into the book keeper's office. This are insurance agent

Then he dreamed that Lesnit sy and Loshadin the constable were walks through the open country into now side be see upporting each other them was warring about their heads the wind was blowing in the balks but they walked in singue. We go maind in and on

The old man was his marctan in an opera, and both fithem wer singm, as though they wer on the stage

We go on, and on, and n

We go on, and on, and n

th warmth to the light and nunes, but we are
calking in the free* a.d. the torm thron he th

deep now

We kin w nothing, I ease w

know rother of joy We bear all the burd n of this life yours and ours Oo-oo-oo! We go on and on and on

I yzhin woke and sat up in bed. What a confused tad dream. And i hy did he dream of the constable and the a ent to, ther? What non sense! And now while Lyzhin's heart vas throb-bing violently and he vas itting on his bed hold ing his head in his hands it seemed to him that there really was som thin in common between the l ves of the insurance agent and the constable Don t tl cy really go s de by side holdin .ach oth up? Some tie unseen but significant and essen tial exited betwen thin and e en between

them and Von Tainitz and bits can all menall men in this life en in the remotest desert nothing is accilental everything is full of one common idea everythin las one soul on ain and to und retand it it is not enough to think it i not enou h to reason one n u t lave also it seems the aft of insight into If a guit which i

evidently n t b stowed on all And th unhappy man who had broken do 'n who had killed himself -the neurasth nic as the doctor alled himand the old peasant who spent every day of his life goir, from one nan to arother were only acci dental v re only fragments of life for one who thought of 1 s o n life as accid ntal but were parts of or e organi m-marvellous and rationalfrom tho thught of he own lif as part of that um ersal vhol and understood it So thought Lyzh n and it vas a thought that h d I ne las hidden in t soul and only now it

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vas unfilded broadly and clearly to his con sciou ness He lay d wn and began to drop asleep and a am

th y wer go n along to ther singing We go n and on and n We take from life what is hardest and bitt rest in it and well a eyon whit ears and joyf 1 and itt no at supper you can

coldly and eens bly dr cues by n suffer and perish and why we are not as sound and as sausfied

as vou What they were smoon had occurred to his mind befo but the the u ht was somewhere n the backer und behind hother thu hts and

flickered tunidly lik far a v li bt in forcy weather And he f it that this world and the peasart's sufferings lay pon his conscient e too to even hunself t th f ct that thes people

subm.ss to thut f te should tak up the burd n of whit as hardest and cloomiest in his-how awful t was To acc pt this and t desire for hunself a hi full of l ht and mo errent amon. happy and ontented peopl and t b continually dr aming of uch means dr amin firesh si des

of men crushed b t il nd anxi t f m n weak and outlast whom peopl nly talk f sometimes at supper 11th ann van Pockery without g in to their help And aga n W go on and on and on as though someon wer beating with hammer on his

temples He w k early in th m rain th a headache, roused by a not in the next room you T unitz was sayin, loudly to the doctor

It simpo sibl for you to go now Look what s going on outside Don't argue you had better ask the coachman he won't take you in such weather for a million

But it s only two miles said the doctor in an

imploring voice

Well if it were only I alf a mile If you can t then you can't Directly you drive out of the gates it is perfect hell you would be off the road in a minute. Nothing will induce me to let you go you can say what you like

It's bound to b out ter towards even ng
said the peasant who was heating the tove
And in the next room the doctor began talking of the rigorous climate and its influence on the character of the I ussia 1 of the long winters which by preventin movement from place to place hinder the intellectual de elopment of the people and Lyzhm lit ned with vexation to these observation and lo ked out of windo , at the snowd ifts v hich vere piled on the fence. He gazed at the white dust v hich covered the whole visible expans at the trees which bo ved their heads d spai ingly to right indicate the to 1 ft listened t the hovlin and the banging and thought glocmily

Well what moral can b drawn from it?

It s a blizzard ar d that is all about it

At midday they had lunch then wandered aimlessly about the house they vent to the mdows

And Lesnitsky is lyin there thought Lizhin witch ng the whirling snow which raced furiously

round and round upon the drifts Lesmisky

is lying ther the witnesses are waiting They talked I the weather saving that the now storm u ually la ted two days and nights rarely lorger At six o clock they had dinn'r then th y

pl yed cards sans danced at la t they had suppor Th dy was o er they vent to bed

I the m bt t wards morning t all subsided When they g t up and looked out of window th bare willows with their wealth drooping branches wer tandir perfectly moti nless it was dull and till as the h hatu e no were ashamed of its rgy of t mad a his and the hience it had a n t is yo, ons. The borses harnessed tand in h d bee waiting at the frict door since to o 'kk n the mo min Wi en it was fully daylight thi di tor and the ramin no magretrat put on thur fur co t and felt boots

and saying good by to their host wint ut

At the teps besid the coachin in tood the
lamilian from of the onshtable live I oshadin, with an old leatter ba,, across h hulder and no cap on his fead to red with ow ll y r and his fee was red a d wet with 1 rs r at in The fortman who had come at the lifth gentlemen

and co er their I gs looked at him ternly and 5a 1 What a expu standing here! you ld u all

C t way

You hon to the people are nous sail Indian migna by il mi fac not eviden by plased at seeing that the people had waited for whom I people are ex-

ON OFFICIAL DUTY uneasy the children are crying. They thought your honour that you had gine back They to the town a am Slow us the leav nly mercy

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our benefactors The do tor and the examining magi trate said nothing for into the sledge and dros to Syrnya

THE FIRST CLASS LASSINGEP

THE PIPST CLASS PASSENGER

A FIRST CLASS passenger who had just dired at the station and drunk a little too much lay down on the vilvet covered seat stretched himself out luxuriou ly and sank into a doze. After a nap of morre than five minutes he looked with only eves at his 1 n h wis gave a smirk and said.

My father of blessed memory used to like to have his heels tickled by peasant women after dinner. I am just like him with thy difference that after dinn r I al ways like my tongue and my brains g ntly stimilated. Sinful man as I am I ike empty talk on a full stomach. Will you

allow me to I ave a chat with you?

I shall b del ghte! answ red it e us d six After a good dinner the most trifling subject is ufficient to arou e devil bly great thoughts in ufficient to arou e devil bly great thoughts in the refreshm in bar two young men and you hard one congratulate it e other on be ng celebrated! I congratulate you he said you are at ady a celebrity and are beginning to win fam. Fudently actors or journalists of microscipie dimensions. But they are in the point. The question that is occupying my mind at the mom int is example.

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fare or cel r is What do you think? Pushkin called fun: a bri ht patch on a rag ed garment e all niretand it as Pu bkin does that is. m r s le bjecti ly-but no one has yet given a clear i mal d finit on f the word

a cirar i m ai d fintton f the word. I would et a good deal for such a definition. Why do feel such a eed for it? You see! I ha whalf me is the means of attaining it mught also perhaps be known to us attaining it mught also perhaps be known to us saud the fit-class p seenger after a moments thought. I must ill you ser by twhen I was younger I sixto af er lebrity with every fibre of my being. To be perhalar was my craze so to speak. For the .k. f. ill tid-d wo ked sat up at m bt newleted my meals. And I fancy as far as I an j dge without part ally. I had all the natural gifts fr attaint. I To been with the natural guiss is a trained. In obeyin with a man engance by press in linth course of my lif I h built in Russ soon t dozen magnificent brie es I ha land qued its for three towns I ha worked in Ru. a. England in Belgi m Seco dly I am the author of several special treatives in my own lir. And sweral special treatises in my own ur Anu thirdly my dear if Ha eff m a boy h d a weak ness for chemistry. Studyun, that scien in my leasur hours I discovered methods if bianing certain organic acids so that a will find m name

certain organic acids so that v awit made in them all the foreign rangula of h mistry. It h alw ys been in the service I h risen to the grad facts let alto notified and ba an inhibermished eccor. I will not foreign and ba an inhibermished eccor. I will not foreign the sound attention by ment to my we keep the gradient of the sound at the total properties.

And yet here I am in inv old se I am getting ready for my coffin o to say and I am as celebrated as that black do, yonder running on the embank rient

ment
How can you tell? Perhaps you are cele
brated

Hm! Well we will test it tonce. Tell me have you ever heard it e nan. Arikuno? The tis? is raise! In yes to the ceiling thought a minute and laughed.

No I haven t heard it tesuid
That is my surrame You a nan of educa

tion gettin on in years have nev rheard of me —a convincin, proof () It see id nt that in my efforts to guin fane I have nt done the right thing at all I d d not kno the right y to set to work and tryn to cet h fame by the tail got on the vrong side of her

What i the rilt vay to set to work?
Well the de alonly knows Talent you say?

Gemus? O send it; Not a bit of it sir People have 1 d and made a carer side by sid with re whot r worthless tr al and even con temptibl mpar d wil m. They did not do o tenth of th work 1 d d lid not put thems lves out ver not distingual hed for their relents and did not mk ean Bort to be elebrated but just look at the n. Their names ar continually in the newspapers and on m is lyps. If y u are not tired of h tening I will fill that it they are empla-Some year 6. I built a bridge in the town k. I must till you that the dulress of that scurvy little to in was terrible. If it hal not been for worr n and ards I belie e I should hag nout I my mud Will ts ar old story I vasso bord that I got nto n affaur with a singer E ryn vas nthusta ti about hr the devid nouls knews why to my thunking she was—whall ay I—an d nary commonple c creative like lots I others Th hussy vas empty headed ill i mpered greedy and what s more she was a

foot

silt impered greedy and what's more she was a She at and drank a vast amount slip till five oclock in the utternoon—and I fan y did nothing else. She was looked upon as a cocott and that was indeed her profes on bit his people inted to efer to her in a literary fishion they called her an a tress and a singer. I used to be do red to the theatre and therefor the fraudulent pretence. I be again a artens made me fur o by individual My young I dy had of the singer She was a call timed. But called the singer She was a call timed and creating on may say. As far as I can jud sele sang disgosts I have a call timed in a consideration of the singer She was a far as I can jud sele sang disgosts I have a far as I can jud sele sang disgosts I have her and the singer She was a can jud selected in a far as I can jud selected in a far as I can jud selected in latter with the singer in the mand opportunities for disporture bit. If I me he atture in the In fact twas—o h. Will I ask your attent on A I remember no a public ceremony took pla to lebrate th opening of the new constructed brid. There was a right u critice there we speeches t legr instants so on

I hun, about my cherished creation you know I mun, about my enershed creation you know all the while afraid that my heart would burst with the excitement of an author. It is an old story and there is no need for fise modesty and so I will tell you that my bridgewas a magnificent work! It was not a bridge but a pt ture a perfect deli h. And, who would not have been excited when the And who would not have been excised who is town came to the opening? Oh I thought now the eyes of all the public will be on me! Where shall I had myself? Well I need not ha e worried mys! If sir—alas Except the official personages no one took the slightest notice of m. They stood in a cro d on the ri er tank gazed l ke heep at the bridge and did not concern thems lyes to knov the had built it. And it was from that time by the vay that I began to was from that 1 me by the vay that 1 cegan to hate our estimable public-dammation take them W. If to continue. All at once if e jublic became g tated a whisper ran throu is the rod. a smile care on the r faces, their shoulders began to move. They must have see 1 me 1 thought. A likely idea. I loke id, and my singer, it in a tran of your scamps va making her vay through the crowd The eyes of the crowl ve hurriedly following the procession A whisper bigin in

the cro'd The eyes of the rrow l'v re hurriedly folloning the proce on A whaper by an at to is and voice Tlat's so and so Charming Bentching Then it was they noticed me A couple of yong milksop local mut urs of the scene art I pre ume looked at me vict langed glunces and wispered That's her lover. How do you l ke that? And an un pryossersing ndividual in a top-late with a chin that badly needed shaving hung rourd me shift

L. f on o foot to the other then turned to me with the wirds

Do you kn w wlo that lady is walking on the other bank? It at a so-and so Her you is bene th all criticism but she has a most perfect masters of it

Can y u tell m I asked th unpr possessing indi id al who built this bride?

I really d n t l n answered ti indivitual

some engineer I pect And who built the cathed I in your town?

I a ked a. in I lly wtilly u

Thin I ad him h was considered the best tacher n h wh ti best ar I tect d to all my quest as the urur possess ig n is du l answered that had ot n

tritellm pleas I kin nluin with whom is stituing rling

Wilsor naiverall his

Will low d alk t t sir But to proceed. There are no manes neers we burds nowadays I cel brith s or ted al ost clu swell by the spaper. The d's freetledealer tion of the bris. I greedily snat hed up the local Me seng and I soled for vs. If in t I seent Ir tir erumun, by yeso er lith four pages and at la t ther it was hurrah I been eadi

Lesterday a bea t ful w ther hel re a ncourse of peopl in the resence file Excel I ney the Govern a of the revine so-ariso

and other a mutanes the recent of the ded can tend of the newly car eted brule took place

and so on Towards the end Our talented actress so-ard so the favourite of the k, public was preent at the dedication looking very beautiful I need not say that ler arrival created a sensation. The star was wearing and so on They might have given re one word! Half a word Petty as it seems I actually cried with versation!

I consoled myself v th the r fi ction that the provinces are stupid and one could expect nothing of them and for c 1 brity ne must go to the in tellectual centres—to P tersburg and to Moscow And as it happened at that very time there as a work of mi e n Pet rsburg v h ch I h d sent in for a comp tition. The date on which the result

was to be declared was at hand

I took leave of f. and went to Petersburg. It is a long journey from k. to Petersburg and that I might not be bord on the journey I took a cress ed ompartm it and—vel—do course I took my singer. We set off and all the ay we were etting drain, ing champagne and—tra la la! I tobeh ld at last wer ach the intellectual centre I urrived in the very day the result as declared at h d the satisfaction my dars if of elel rating v in success my vork received the first prize litrir h. Next day I vent out along, the NewSky

and sp nt seventy kopecks on various ne vspapers
I hastened t my hotel room lay down on the own
and controll ng a q wer of extement made haste
to read I ran through one new spaper—nothing
tran thro gh second—nothing either my God I
At last in the fourth I lighted upon the following.

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

paragraph I esterday the well kn wn pro uncal actiess so-and-so arm ed by express in Peter burg We note with pleasure it at the climate of the South has had a beneficial effect on our fur friend her charming stage appearance and I don't remember the rest. Much lower d wn than that paragraph I found, printed in the smallest type. The first prize in the competition is adjuded to the program of the properties of the stage of the properties of

The first prize in the competition — as adjud ed to an engineer called so and so — Th t was all had to nat hings better they even in spelt my name instead of kinkino it was kinkinovo oso much for your mil lectual centre. But that was not all — By the time I I if the trablum a month later — I it the nes swaper were synn, with one an their n discu. n — ur r omparable du ni — highly tell nted actress and my mistress was r ferred to not by her urnan — but by her Christian name and her fall t s.

Som years later I wa. In Moce w I "as sum moned there by a I tter in the may re own handwriting to undertal, a vork for which Moscow in it newsp pers h d been Jamourine for over a hundred years. In the inter also find work I d it ered I publi becures with a phil anthropic object in one of the ruseum there on would hat shought that was enough to mak one known to the whol town for three days at least wouldn't one? But also in I a single Moscow gazette said a word about in There or the properties after pig town connell stems, the preparation of the properties after pig town connell stems, the preparation of the pig town connell stems, the preparation of the pig town connell stems, and it is not preparation of the pig town connell stems, and it is not preparated the pig town connell stems, and a new set in the pig to the pig town the pig town

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they are in Mosco : I got into a tram was nacked full there were ladies and mil tary men and stu lents of both sexes creatures of all sorts in couples

I am told the toy n council has sent for an engineer to plan such and such a vork I said enginer to pian such in such a tork I said to my neighbour so loudly that all the tram could hear Do you know it e name of the ngineer? My neighbour shook his head The rest of the puble took a cursory glance at me and in all their eyes I read I Jont know

I am told that there is someone giving lectures in such and such a miseum? I persisted trying to get up a conversat on I hear it is interest mg

N one en nodded I dently they lad not all of them heard of the lectures and the ladies we note en aware fth exitenc ofth mus im de r sir the prople su idealy I raped to their feet and struggled to the indo s What was it? What was the matte?

I ook look my ne I bour nud ed me D you's th t dark man gettin into th t cab? That's the famous runner L ng

and the at ole tram began talking by athlessly of the runner v ho v as the absorbing the brains of Mosco v

I could gie yo ever so many other examples but I think that i cho gh. Now let us assume but I think to at I can gir now let us assume that I am m st ken about myself that I am a wr tchedly boastful and acconpetent person but apart from mys lf I m ght point to many of 101 rn contemporaries men rem_kable for their talent and industry who have nevertheless died unrecomized Are Russian navivators chemists physicist mechanicians and amiculturists popular with the public ? Do our culti-ated mases know anythin of Rus ian art sts culp ors and literary Some old literary back fand working and talented will wear away the doorstep of the pubh bers offices f r thirty three years, cover reams of paper be had up f libel twenty times a, d vet not step beyond his ant heap. Can you mention to me a sumle rep esent v I ur literature who would have become cel by ted if the rumour had not been read over the earth that he had been killed in duel g ne out of his mind been cent min exile or had chated at eard

The firs -cla-, passen er was so xcited that he dropped his cr ar out of his mor th and got un

les he went on fierch and sid by sid with these people I can quite you hurded of all sorts of singers, acrob to buffoo ... whose names are known to every baby les

The door creaked ther was a draught and an indi adual of ferbidding a peet wearing an In er ness coat a top-hat and blu pertacles walked into the earning. The individual looked round at the seats fromped and went on further

Do you know who that there came a turn I whatper from the furthest corner of the compartment That is \ \ th famous Tula card harper who wa had up in connect on with the Y bank affair

There you are laughed th first-class nas-

He knows a Tula cardsharper but ask him whether he knows Semiradsky Tchaykovsky or Solovyov the philo.opher-he ll shake his head

It's swimsh Three minutes passed in silence

Allow me in my turn to ask you a question said the us-does timidly clearing his throat

Do you know the name of Pushkov?

Pushkov ? H m Pushkov No I don't know it

That is my name said the vsd vis overcome with en barrassment Then you don t know it? And yet I hav been a professor at one of the Russian universities for thirty five years a member of the Academy of Sciences have published more than one work The first class passen ran I the wis d a s looked at each other and burst out laughing

A TRAGIC ACTOR

A TPAGIC ACTOR

It was the benefit night of Penogenov the tranc actor They were actin Prince Serebryany The tragedian himself was playing Vyazensky Limonadov the stage manager was playing Morozov Madame Beobahtov Elena The per formance was a grand success. The tragedian accomplished wonders indeed When he vas carrying off Elena he held her in one hand above his head as he dashed across the stage He shouted hissed banged with his feet tore his coat across his chest. When he refused to fight Morozov he trembled all over as nobody ever trembles in reality and gasp d loudly The theatre shook with applause Th re vere endless calls Fenogeno was presented with a silver cigarette case and a bouquet tied with long ribbons. The ladies waved their handkerchiefs and urged their men to applaud many shed tears But the one who was the most enthusiastic and most excited was Masha daughter of Sidoretsky the police captain. She was sitting in the first row of the stalls beside her gapa she was ecstatic an I could not take her eyes off the stage even bet veen the acts. Her delicate little lands and feet were quivering her eyes were full of tears her cheeks 200 turned paler and paler And no onder-she s t th theat e for the first time in her l fe

H ell they ct how splendidly ! she said to he p p the police aptain e cry time the cur tain f ll How good F nogenov is

tain til How good Fingenov is
And i hr papa had been cap ble of reading
fa es he would have rad n his daughter's pale
littl ountenanc a rapture thit vas almost
angush Sh was er me by th acting by the
ply by the surroundings. When the regumental
band begin plying bet in the acts she closed
her yes evhilitted.

Papa she sad to the police capta n durin the lest interval gobehind the scenes and ask them all toding to-morrow.

The polic c ptan w nt behind the sc nes praised them all for the fine ct ng and ompli mented Madame Beobabto

Y ur lovely fa e demands a anva and I only wish I could wield the brush

And with a scrape he ther upon a ted th

company to dinner All e pt the fair s x le thispered I don't ant the a tresses for I h a daughter

dont and the a tresses for l h a daughter Next d y h actors dined at h pol captain s Only three t ried up th manag r Limonadow the tragedian Fingen v and the m man Vodolazov th there sent excuses The d nice was a dull affair. Lim n dov kept telling th police captain h w much le expect d lim and how highly he this f all persons in authority Vodolazo im meked drunken merch nis in Armenians and Fenogeno (on his pasport lis

name was I msh) a tall stout Little Russian with black eyes and frowning brow declarmed. At the portals of the great and To be or not to be. Lamonadov with tears in his ey s described his interview with the former Governor General Kanyutchin Te pole captain listened was bored and smiled affably. He was a ell satisfied although Limonadov smelt stron ly of burnt feathers and Fenogenov wa vearing a hired dress-coat and boots trodden down at hee! Tiep pleased his daughter and made her lively and that was enough for him. And Misal never took her eyes off the actors. She ha' in ever before seer such clever exceptional people.

eyes oil the actors She hal never before seen such clever exceptional people. In the evening the police captain and Masha were at the theatter again. A wek later the actors dined at the police captains again and after that came almost every d ye ther to dinner or upper Masha became in re and more d voted to the

theatre and went there every evening

She fell in love with the tragedian. One fine morning when the polic aptian had gone to meet the bishop. Masha ran away with Limonadove company and married her he of on the way. After celebrating the welding the neters composed a long and touching lett r and sent t to the police capitain. It was the ork of their combined efforts.

Br ng out the motive the motive! Limonadov kept s ving as he d ctated to the come man I ay on the respect These official chaps lke it Add something of a sort to draw a

tear

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The answer to this letter was most discomforting The police captain disowned his dau hter for marrying as his said a stup didle Little Russian with no fixed home or occupation

And the d y after this answer v as received Masha was wr ting to her fath

Papa h be ts me Forgive us!

He had beat n her b ten her behind the sc nes in the presen f Limonadov the washer woman nd t o l htm men He rem mbered h w four days b for the void ng he was sitting in the Lond n T on with the whol company and all er talking about M ha The company were ad sang him to h nc it and Limon dow with tears in his eyes urged. It would be tup d and irrational to let lip such an opportunity. Why for a vum like the tone would go to Siberia, let along thing married. When you marry and h ath at e fyour own take m into your com

pany I shan t b master th n you ll be master
Feno enov remembered t and muttered with

clenched fists If h d esn t send m n y I il smash h r I t on t I t myself be made fool of d mn my soul

At one provincial town the company ted to give Masha the slip but Mash fund out ran to the station and got three who the second bell had rung and the actors had all taken their seats I ve been shamefully treated by you f ther sail their gedian all is over betveen us

And though the carriage was full of peopl sh went do n on her knees and h ld out her hands

imploring him

I love you! Don't drive me away kondraty
Ivanovitch she besought him I can't live
without you

They listened to her entreaties and after consulting to other took her into the company as a

sulting to ether took her into the company as a countes. —the name they used for the minor actresses who usually came on to the stage in crowds or in jumb parts. To begin with Masha used to play maid servants and pages but when Madama Beobalitov the flo er of Lironado's company eloped they made her in inus. She acted badly lipped and was neryous 'She soon grew us d to it howe er and began to be liked by the audient e. Penogenov a smuch displia sed. To call her an actress, he used to say She has no figure no devortment nothing what

She has no figure no deportment nothing what ever but sillines

In one provincial town the company acted Schiller's Robb rs. I nogenov pl yed Franz Masia a Annah. The tragedian shouted and quivered. Masia a peated her part like a well levint lesson and the pl y would his gone off sitely generally did and in it feen for a triffing hishap Everytimay in well up to the point while reference has love for Annah and she seizes his sword. The tagedian shouted hissed quivered and squivered Masia in his tron embrace. And Masia in instead of a pulsure him and crying. Hence it milled in its arms like a birl and did not not one of she seemed petrified.

Ha e p ty on me she wh spered in his ear Of have pity on me I am so miserable

You don't know your part! I isten to the

2.0 THE TALES OF TCHEHOV prompter hased the tragedian and he thrust hi

swe d ato her hand

After the performance Limonadov and Fenog roy were s tun, in the ticket box-office en aged n conversati n Your wife does not learn her part you are

ri ht ther the manager vas saving doesn't know her line E ery man has his

own line but she doesn't know hers Fenorency listened sighed and scowled and

scowled Next mornin. Masha was sittin in a little general h p writin Papa, he beats me Forgi e us Send us some money

5

A TRANSGRESSION

A TLANSGRESSION

A COLIEGIATE assessor called Miguev stopped at a telegraph post in the course of his evening, valk and heaved a deep sigh. A weck before as he was returning home from I is evening valk he had been overtaken at that very spot by his former house maid. Again who said to him victously.

Wait a bit I il cook you such a cr b that il teach you to runn nocent girls I il leave the baby at your do r a d I il have the lav of you and I il tell your y f too

And she'd manded the the should put five thousand rouble into the bank in her name Migue remembered it leaved a sigh and once more reproached himself with heartfelt repentance for it momentary infatu tion which had cau ed I im so much be rry and migery.

I ms on much rry and ms ery
When I or e ched his bumpalo v he sat down to
rest on the doorstep. It was just ten o cl ck and
a t t of the moon peeped out from behind the
clouds. Ther van not a soul in the street nor
near the bungalo 's elderly summer ristors were
already y mg to bed hile young ones were, valk
ing in the ool. Teeling in both his pockets for
a match to light h is eigarette. Miguev brought I is
clob vinto contact with something soft. He looked

Sh has I ft it he muttered wrathfully through his teeth elenching his fists Her thes Here hes m transgres. In O Lord

H was numb with terro an e- and sham What was h to do now? What would his wife say if sh found out? What would his colleagues at the office say? His Excellence, we slid be sure to me, furn in the ribs guff w and as I comparatulate you. He-be-he Thouch your beard is given your heart is gay. You are a rowne, Sema in Eraston teh. The shill coll not surmer sutrow would know his seer t now and prob bly the espectabl prothers of families would hust their doors to him. Such need to always git into the papers and the humble name of M guew wound be published all ver Russia.

The middl window of th bungalow was open and he could distinctly hear his wife. Anna Filippovan, I ynas th to I for supper in the yard close to the gat Nermolay the porter was plaint ely running on the baldaika. The b by had nly to wake up and beem to cry and the secret would be secret

be discovered. Miguey was conscious of an over helming desire to make histe

Haste haste he muttered minute before anyone sees. I'll carry it away

and lay it on somebody s doorstep

Miguev took the bundle in one hand and quietly with a deliberate step to a old awakening suspicion. went down the street

A wonderfully nasty position h reflected trying to assume an ir of unconcern A collegiate assessor walking to vn the street with a baby! Good heavens ! if anyone ees me and unde stands the position I am done for 1 d better put it on this doorstep No stay the indows are open and perhaps someone is lookin Where shall I put it? I know I II take it to the mer Merchants ar rich people chant Myelkin and tender hearted very likely they vill say thank you and ad pt it

And Migu v made up his mind to take the baby to Myelkin's although the m rehant's villa was in the furthest street close to the river

If only it does not b gin screaming or vriggle out of the bundle thought the collegiate assessor

This is indeed a pleas nt surprise Here I am carrying a human b in, under my arm as though it were a portfolio A human bein, alive with soul ith feelings like anyone else good luck the Myelkins adopt him he may turn account somebody Maybe he will becom a professor a great gheral an author Any thing may happen. Now I am carrying it under my arm like a bundle of rubbish and perhaps in ix.

10 THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

thirty or forty y is I may not dare to sit down in his presence
As Vigu w walking I n a narror deserted

alles besid a ling r w of fences in the thick black had of it lim t es it suidenly struck I m th t I was long som thing very cruel and criminal

criminal

It werean t By he thou ht So
mea that on ant By anything meaner
Why ar w I fig this poor buby from door to
door? It nit t I littlitise been born Its
long us not lar W so undrils We
tak our plass. I dit occret bathes have
t pay the pelity Oh t think of all this
weetched bulmess I come wor og and this
weetched bulmess I come wor og and this
did has gon this lessent if II lay at the My lams door thy ll send it to the foundling hosp tal and there t will gr w pam ng str ngers nechanical tin olo no petting no spoil ng And then h II be perent ced t a shoem ker b II tak to drink will learn to use filthy l ngu g will g h ngty A shoemaker and l e th son of a collegiate assessor of

good tam ly He my flesh nd blood Migues cam out of the shade of the lim trees t th bright moonlight of the open oad nd opening the bundle h looked at th b by

opening the bundle h looked at the by Asleep h murmured. You little rascal why you negul n nosel'k your father. He sleeps and de sint feel that the sown father looking at him. It adram my boy Well well you tust forg me Forgi me old boy. It arms its your father.

The collegate assessor blinked and felt a spasm running down his cheeks He wrapped up the baby put him under his arm and strode on All the way to the Myelkina villa social question were s arming in his brain and conscience was gnawing in his bosom

If I were a decent honest man he thought

I should damn everything go with the baby to Anna Filippovna fall on my knees before her and say Forgive me I have sunned Torture me but we won't ruin an innocent child. We have no children let us adopt him. She s a good sort she d consent. And then my child vould be with me.

He reached the Myclains villa and stood still hesiating He imaguned humself in the parlour at home a time read ng the paper wil lea little boy with an aquitine nose played with the tassels of hi dress ne gown. At the same time visions forced themselves on his brain of ha winking colleage es and of his Excellency di gina, him in the ribs and guffawn. Besides the prict ing of his conscience ther was something warm said and tender the shader.

Cautiously the collegiate assessor laid the baby on the verandah step nd v aved his hand. Again he f lt a spasm run over his f ce

he f it a spasm run over his f ce
Forgive me old fellow! I am a scoundr l
he muttered Don't remember e il a ainst me!

he muttered Don't remember e il a anst me!

He stepped b ck but immediately cleared his
throat resolutely and said

Oh come what will! Damn it all! I il

take I im and let people say what they like

M: u v tock the by and trode rapidly back Let then say he they like he thought

Flipp na Anna is good sort shell under tand And well bring him up If its

tand And well bring him up If its by ell ill in Vladimir an infits a gurl well call her Ann ! Anyway it will be a comfort in ou old ag

And he dd as I determined Weeping and almost funt with slime and t rror full of hope and vague raptur he ent it his bungalow yent up to his ife and fell on his knees before

her
Anna Fil pro na he said ath a sob and
he la d tl e baby on th floor Hear me before
you punish 1 ha inned! Tits i my
child You remembe Agnia? Will t was

the devild of emitors.

And almost unconsecute with shime a diterror himmed up with utility for an inswer and account of the order and are set to the order.

ran out into the open air as th ugh h h d received a thrasl in Ill stay here outside till she calls me h th ught Ill g e h tim to recover d to

think it ove

The porter 1 imolay pased him ith 1 s bala

but elined at him and hungred his shipled

The porter \(\) miolay pas ed \(\) m th \(\) s bala lak \(\) leced at \(\) m and hrugged his sh ulders A m nute later he passed him gain and gan he shrugged his sh ulders

Heres \(\) a \(\) i Did you eve \(\) h muttered

Here's a & ! Did you eve h muttered grinning Aksins the wa h rwoman as here 1 t now Sermy n Er st tch Th silly worn n put h r baby down on th steps h a d while

she was indoors with me someone took and carried off the baby Who d have thought it

What? What are you saying? shouted
Miguey at the top of his voice

Yermolav interpreting h s mast r s wrath in his own fashion scratched his head and heaved a sigh

own lashion scratched his head and heaved a sigh
I am sorry Semyon Crastitch he said but
its the summer holidays one can't get on
without without a woman I mean

without without a woman I mean

And glancing at his master eyes glaring at him

with anger and astonishment he cleared his throat guiltily and went on

It's a sir of course but there—hat i one to do? You ve fo budden us to ha stranger in the house I knov but ve none of our own now When Agnia as here I had no women to see me for I h d one at home but no you cal see for yours if ron can't help having stran ers. In Agnia s time of course ther was nothin irregular becaus

Be off you sou d I Mouvest outed at him stan ping and he vent back into the room

Anna Filippovna amazed and vrathful was sitting as before her tear stained eyes fixed on the baby

There! there! If gue muttered with a pale face tv istin, his lips into a smile. It was a joke. It snot my baby it s the washer woman s. I. I vas jokin. Take it to the poter.

SMALL FRY

SMALL FRY

Honoured Sir Father and Ben fa tot! a petty clerk called Nevyrazimov was writing ar ugh copy of an Easter congr tulatory lett r I tru t that you may spend this Holy Day e en as many more to come in good letith and ir seperity. And to your family also I

The lamp in viad the kerosene was getting low was smokin and smelling A stray cockroach vas running about the table in alarm near Nevy razimovs riting hand. Two rooms away from the office Paramon the porter va for the third time cl aning his best boots vial with such energy that the sound of the blacking brush and of his

expectorations vas audible in all the rooms

What else can I writ to him the rascal?

On the ce ling he saw a dark circle—the shadow of it elamp hade. Below it was the dusty cornice and lower still the wall which had none been painted a bluich muddy colour. And the office seemed to him such a place of disolation that he felt sorry

smitty ceiling

him such a place of disolation that he felt sorry not only fir hu uself but even for the cockroach Willen I am off duty I shall go a vay but he li be on duty i cre all it is cockrout if he thought stret hine I am bored Shall I clean my hoots?

And tret hi one more Vevyrazimov slouched lazily t the porter room Paramon had finished cl aning his boots. Cr. ing himself vith one claming his poors

or ing number with one was
standing at the ope

or ing number with one of the was
standing at the ope

or ing number with or ing number with one

to who pane list ning

m v looking at h m with yes int nt and wide open

Alrea is

Nevyrazim v pn l ar t th pen pan and listened. The Faster himes flo ted into the room with what f fesh ping ir The booming of the bill mingled with the rimble of arriges and aby the chos f sound ros the brisk tenor t nes f th nearest chur h nd a loud shrill laugh

What lit fpeopl so hed he yrazumov looking down a the stret wier shadows f men flitted on afte an the by the ll mination lamps They r all furryin t th midnight set ace Our f ll ws ha had a drank by service Our in what a had a drink by mow you may be sure and ar t fling about th town What lot f1 ughter whitalt ftalk! Inth only unful ky on to hat there is ns haday And I hat do it ry sear Well n body for esy ut tak the poblits n tyour turn to be on duty to-d v but Z stupo hired y ut take his pl When ther folks are enj ying themsel exyou he eyour If ut It

greediness

Devil a b t 1 it \ t much to be greedy over—two oubles is all he gives me a neckite as It's no rty not greediness

And it would be jolly now you know to be going with a parity to the service and then to break the fast To drink and to have a bit of supper and tumble of to sleep. One sits down to the table there a ni Faster cake and the samovar hissing and some charming little thing beside you. You drink a glass and chuck her und the chin and it is first rate. You feel you re somebody. Ech h I ve made a mess of things. Look at that hussy driving by in her carriage while I have to it here and brood.

We each have our lot in life Ivan Danilitch Please Go 1 you'll be promoted and drive about

in your carriag one day

I? No brother not likely I shan t get beyond a titular not if I try till I bur t I m not an educated man

Our General has no education either but Well but the General stole a hundred thousand

before he got his position. And he's got very different manners and deportment from me brother. With my manners and deportment one can't get far. And su h a scoundr'lly surname Nevyrazumov! It s a hopeless postion in fact One may go on as one is or one π ay han, one self.

He moved away fron the window and walked were Iy about the rooms. The din of the bells gre louder and louder. There was no need to stand by the x ndow to hear it. And the better he could hear the bells and the louder the roar of the carriags a the darket seemed the muddy

w lls and the mutty corn ce and the more the lamp smoked

Shall I book it and I are the office? thought Nevvraz mo

But's haffight oron sed n thing worth ha ring After coming out 1 th office and wanderin

bout th town N yrazimov would have gone I me to his lodgi and in his lodging it was even greyer and me edepressing than in the office E n supposing h we to spend that d y pleas antly and with c mfort whith high help mid?

antly and with c mfort whith d h bey ndr.
Anthung but the sam grey walls the same stopg p d ty nd compi mentary litters
Yevyra innov tood still n th m iddl of the
office and sank nt ti ught. They arm g for a
new better lf gn wed this heart with an ntoler
able the H had a pas onate in n t find himself sudd nly n ti st eet t mingle with the humself suddinity in it set et it mingle with the 1 ng crowd to take part in it sol min fest n'ty for th sake of whi hall those bell r clashin and those carr ges wer umbling. He lon ed for wh the hal known in chidhood—th family circle the festiv faces of his own peop! the whit cl th light warmth. He thought the arrage

n hich the 1 dy had just driven by th overcoat in which the h ad clerk was so smart the gold chain that adorned the ser tary chest. He thought of arm bed of the Stanilay order of new boots of a unif rm without holes in the

elbows H thought of all those things because he had n n of them Shall I steal? h th u ht Es n if stealing

is an easy matter h d ng s what s d fficult Men

run away to America they say with what they we stolen but the devil knows where that blessed America is. One mult have education even to steal it seems.

The bells died dox n He heard only a distant noise of carriages and Paramon cough while hi depress on and anger grev more and nore intense and unbearable. The clock in the office strick lalf past tw hu.

Shall I write a eer t eport? Proshkin did

and he rose rapidly

Nesyrazimo s t d v n at his table and pondered Tie lamp in v hich the k rosen bad quite run dry vas smooling jointly and thre ten ng to go out The str y cockroach was still run ning about the table and l d found no restin place

One can always s nd in a secret report but how s one to make it up? I should want to make all sorts of innuend es and naimustions like Prost kin and I c n t do it. If I made up any thing I st ild b the I r t to get into troubl I r it. I m an as d mn my sal.

And \ \gamma_Tazmov r \ \text{kin his brain for a means of escape, from his hopeless post ion stared at the rought copy he h d writt n The letter as written to a m n hom he feared n d hated vinh his whole soul and from 1 om hic had for the last t n y cars been trying to x ring a post or fill gibteen roubles a month inst d of th ne le had at sixteen rouble.

Ah I'll t acl you to run here you devil He viciously slapped ti p lm of his hand on th

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV cockroach who had the misfortune to catch his hasty thing !

2

The cockroach f li on its back and wri gled its legs in despair Nevyrazimov took it by one leg

and threw it into the lamp. The lamp flared up ard spluttered

and Nevyrazimos f lt better

THE REQUIEM

THE REQUIEM

In the villag church of Verhry Zajrudy mass was just over. The people had begun moving and were trooping out of church. The only one who did not move was Andrey Andreyitch a shopkeeper and old inhabitant of Verhny Zagruly He stood viting ith his elbo vs or the railing of the right clost Hi fat and shav r face cov ered with indentatio s left by pingles expressed on this casion two cantadictory feelings resignation in the fice of the table destiny and stupid unbou ded disdain for the smocks and striped kirchi f jassing by him. As it was Sunday he was dressed like a dandy. He wore a long cloth sercoat with yellos bon buttons blu trousers not thru t into hi boot and sturdy goloshes-the huge clumsy goloshes only seen on the feet of pra tical and prudent persons of firm relies us con actions

His torpid eyes sunk in fat were fived upon the ken stand. If say the long famil ar figures of the samts it e v rger Mittey puffing out his cheeks and blo n out the candles the darkened candle stands the threadbare carpet the sacristan Loj uhor running impulss. Is from the altar and carrieng it elsolw bread to the churchwarden.

All these things he had seen for years and seen over and o er a am like the five fin, ers of his hand There was only on thing however that was somewh t strange and unusual Father Grigory till

in his estments was standing at the north door twitching his thick eyebrows angrily Who is the winking at? God bless him thought the shopkeeper And h is beckoming

with his fin, er And he stamped his foot What next Wh t the matter H ly Queen and Mother Whom does he mean it for 2 Andrey A d yitch looked round an I saw the church compl t ly deserted. Ther were some

ten people standing at the door but they had thur backs to the altar Do come when you ar called Why do you

stand like a graven imag he heard Father Grigory s anory orce I am calling you

The shopkeeper looked t Father Gri ory red and wrathful face and nly then realized that the twitch ng eyeb-ows and beckome finger might refer to him H started 1 ft the ailing and hes tatingly walked towards the altar tramping with his heary g loshes

Andrey Andreystch was t you asked for prayers for the rest of Mariya's soul? asked the priest his eves angrily transfixing the shookeeper s fat perspiring face Jes F ther

Then it was you wrote this? You? And F ther Gri ory arguly thrust befor his eyes the 1ttl note

And on this bitle not handed in by Andres

Andrevitch before mass was written in big as it were staggering letters For the rest of the soul of the servant of God

the harlot Mariya Ye certainly I wrote it answered the

shopkeeper How dared you write it? whispered the priest and in his husky whisper there was a lote of vrath

and alarm The shopkeeper look d at him in blank amaze ment he was pe plexed and he too was alarmed Father Grigory had never in his lif spoken in sich a tone to a leading resident of Ve hny Zaprudy Both were silent for a m nute staring into each oth r s face The shopkeeper s amaz ment was so great that his f t face spread it all directions like spilt dough

How dared you? repeated the priest Wha what? ask d Andrey Andrevitch

in bewild rment

You dor t und rst nd? vhispered Father Grigory stepp ug b k in astonishment and clasping he hands. What have you got on your shoulders a head or some other objet? You send a note up to the altar and vitte a word in it which it yould b unseemly even to utter in the street Why are you rolling your eyes? Surely you know the me ning of the word?

Ar you ref rring to th word harlot? mut tered the shopkeeper flushing crimson and blink in.

But you know the Lord in His mercy f rgave this very thing for ye a harlot He has prepared a place for her and indeed from 228 THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

the life fith his aint M raya of Egypt one may see wh t sense the ord is used-excuse me

The shipkeoper wanted to bring forward some ther argum nt n his justificati n but took fri ht

nd w ped h s l ps with he slee
So that s v h t you mak of it cried Father Grig y lasping his hands But you see God has firg en 1 -do you understand? He has

nas Irg en I — do you understand? He nas forg en but you jud ehe you slander he. call her by an un eemly nam and hom Your own deceased du hter Not only in H JS Scripture but en n w ldly l terature you won t read of such a m I t ll y u again Andrey you mustin t be o er ubtle Youn you mustin t be over subtle b otl If God has giv n you an en quiring mind and f you cann t direct t better
n t g nto things D nt go into things nd hold your peace

But you kn w sh exen my ment on ng t was an a tress articulat d Andrey Andrey itch o erwh lmed

An ctress B twhatever sh was you ought t fo get tall n \ h is d ad instead of writing it

on then t Just so the sh pkeeper ass nted

You ought to d p nanc boomed the deacon from the d pths of the altar look ng co temptu ously at Andrey Andreyutch's embarra ed fac that would teachy to 1 ve off b gso cle er

Your daughter w a ell kn wn act ess Ther were ev n not es of her death in the newspapers
Philosopher

To be sure c rtainly muttered th shopkeeper the word is not a seemly on but I did not say it to judge her Tather Grigory I only meant to speak spiritually that it right be clarer to you for whom you were praying They write in the memorial notes the various callings such a the infant John the drowned yoman P lagea the warrior Veger it imurdered Pavel and so on I meant to do the same

It was foolish Andrey God ill forgive you but beware another time. Above all don't be subtle but think like oth r people. Make ten

bo s and go your way

bo s and go your was
I obey sand the shopkeeper reli ved that the
lecture was over and all ving his face to resume
its express on of import nee and dignity. Ten
bo vs? Very good I understand But no r
Tather allow in to ask, you as a our
that I am anyway her father vou know
yoursell whether she was ste was still my
daughter so I vs.
excuse me meaning to
ask you to s ng the requiem to-day. Ind allow
me to ask you! ther Deacon.

Well that s good said lather Grigory taking off his vestments That I commend I can approve of the Well go your way We will come out immediately

Andrey Andreystel valked with dignity from the altar and with a sol min requiem like expresion on lis red free took his stand in the middle of the church The ver er Vat ey set before him a little table with the memorial food upon it and a little later the requiem service began

There was perfect stillness in the church Noth

233 ing could be heard but the metallic click of the censer and ow moing

Near Andrey Andrevitch stood the verger Matvey the midwife Makary vna and her one armed son Vitka There was no on lise. The sacristan sang badly in an

unpleasant hollow bas but the tune and th vords wer so mournful that the shop eeper little by hitle lost the expression of dignity and was plunged in sadiess. He thought fins Mashutka,

remen bered she had been born when he was still a lackey in the service f th owner of Verhny Zaprudy In his busy life as I ckey he had not noticed how h s g rl had grown up That long period during which sh was bin haped into a graceful creatur with a little flaxen head and dreamy eyes as big as kopeck p eces pa.sed un not ced by h m Si e had been brought up lik all the children of fa ourst lack vs in ease and

comf rt in the company of the y ung ladies Tre gentry to fill up their die time had ta ght her to read to write to lan he i ad had no hand

in her bringing up Only from time to time casually meeting her at the gat o on the landing of the tair he would remember the tah was his daughter and would so far as he had le sure for it

begin teaching her the pr yers and the scripture Oh ven then he h d th reputat n of an authority on the clurch rules and the holy scriptures!

Torb dding and tolid as her f ther s face v as

yet the girl li tened eadily Sh epeated the prayers after him yawming but on the other hand when he hest ting and trying to appress himself claborately began telling her stoles she was all

attention Esau's pottage the punishment of Sodom and the troubles of the boy Joseph made her turn pale and open her blue eyes wide

Afterwards when he gave up bein a lackey and with the money he had saved opined a shop in the village Mashutka had sone away to Mosco v

vith his master s family

Three years before her death she I ad come to sec her father He had scarcely recognized her She was a graceful young woman with the manner of a young lady and dressed like one. She talked eleverly as though from a book smoked and slept till midd ty. When Andrew Andreyttch asked her what she was doing. I e had announced looking him boldly straight in the face I am an actress Such frankness struck the former flunkey as th acme of cyn asm Mashutka had begun boasting of her suc es es and her stage life but seeing that her father only turned on son and threw up his hands she cased. And they spent a forting to ther without spenking or looking at one another till the day she went a vay. Before she went away she isked her father to come for a walk on the bank of the iver I ainful as it was for hun to walk in the light of day in the sight of all honest people with a daughter who was an actress h yielded to her request

What a lovely place you live in! she said enthusiast cally W1 at ravines and marshes! Good! ea ens how lovely my native place is! And she had burst into tears

The place is simply taking up room Andr y Andreyitch had thought looking blankly

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

at the arms n understanding his dam her senthalism. There is no more prof. from them than mala from a bill goat

And he had or ed and cried drawin her breath greec.ly with her wh 'e chest as though he f it

he had not a lo um 1 ft to breath A d. ov And evitch show his head like a horse that nas been by ten mit stifle painful memories

began rapidly cros am-elf Be muniful O Lord h muttered, of Thy departed cervar th and t Marry and foreive her stab vo aut... v r m of ntary

The marenix w ido ed from halps again, but h d d n what is tirmly embedded in the conscious and among the driver out by Father Gri or xhortan ... or even knaked o t by a nail 3 acaryevna s med and w sopred wine-

thin, drawing a deep breath while ne-armed Mitha was b. ooding o er something When ther is no kness nor god or be-

mg, droued t scristan, a er his right cheek with his ha d Bush mok cored up for the ease and bathed in the broad samun, patch i sunshire which c't across the gloomy I con emptires f

the church And it seemed as to out he the soul f the dead woman were souring the sunlight t gether with the mok. The a child curb edded r und d ound floating upwares to the wadow and as it wer hod a alor f from the woes and travalations of which tha port soul was fall

IN THE COACH HOUSE

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IN THE COACH HOUSE

IT was between tune and ten o clock in the e ening Stepan the coachman Mihailo the house porter Alyoshka the coachman s grandson, who had come up from the village to stay with his grandfather and hikandr an old man of seventy who used to come into the yard every eve ung to sell saft her rings were sitting round a lantern in the big coach house playing kings. Through the wide-open door could be seen the whole yard 'the lag house where the master's family lived the gates the cellars and the porter's lodge. It was all shrouded in the darkness of inght and only the four windows of one of the lodges which was let were brightly lit up. The shadows of the coaches and sledges with the its shafts tipped up arids stretched from the walls to the doors quivering and cutting across it e sha lows cast by the lantern and the players.

On the other side of the thin partition that divijed it coach h use from the stabl were the horses. There as a scent of hay and a disagree able smell of a it herrin's coming from old Nikandr

The porter won and was kin has med an attitu! such as was in his opinion b fitting a king and ble his nose loudly on a red checked handly relief

I have orders to go to the police station to morrow said the porter There will be an en quiry But what do I know about it? I saw nothing of it He called me this morning gave me a letter and said Put it in the letter boy for me And his eyes were red vith crying His wife and clildren were not at hone They had gone out for a walk So when I had gone with the letter he put a bullet into I is forchead from a revolver When I came back his cook was wailing for the whole yard to hear

It's a great sin said the fish hawker in a

husky once and he shook his head a preats in
From too much I arming said the porter
aking a truck his wits outstripped his visdom
Sometimes he would sit vitting papers all night
Play pe ant But he was a nice
gentleman And so white-skinned black haired

He v s a good lodger

It seems the fair sex i at the bottom of it sad the coact man slapping the nine of trumps on the king of diamonds It's ems le was fond of another man's wif and listiked his own it does hoppen

The king robels said the port r

At that moment there was again a ring from the y rd Ti e rebellious king spat with vexation and went out Shadows like dancing couples flitted acros the vindovs of the lod e There was the sound of onces and I urried footsteps in the yard

I suppose the doctors have come again said the coa hman. Our Mihailo is run off his

legs

As ange was ng voice rang oit for a moment in the air. Alyoshka looked in alarm at his grand father, the coach man, then at the windows, and said.

H troked m on the head at the gate yester lay and said. What d trit lo you come from by y? Crandfather who was the howled just now?

His grandfather trimmed the he he in the lantern and made no a wer

The min s lost it said little later with a yawn. His lost and his bill on it runned, too liss a disgrace for his children for the rest of their less now.

The porter am bak and tel was by the

lartern

He is d ad h said. They ha e sent t the almshouse for the old women to lay 1 im out.

almshouse for the old women to lay 1 m out.

The kin,d m of hea en ind eternal peace to him whispered the coachma and he crossed.

himself
Looking at him Alvoshka crossed himself too
You can't pr'y for such a him said th' fi.h

hawker Why n

Itsa n

That's true the porter assented Now his

soul has gone straight to hell to the d vil It s a in, r peated the fi.h h where such

as he have no funeral no requeme but are buried like carrion with no respect

The old man put on his cap and got p

It was the same thing at our lady s he said

pulling his cap on further We were serf in those days the vounger son of our mistress the Ceneral's lady shot himself through the mouth with a pistol from too much learning too It with a piston from too much rearrang too at seem that by law such have to be buried outside the cemetery without priests without a requiem service but to save listrace our lady you know bribed the police and the doctors and they gave her a paper to say her son had done it when del ri ous not knowing what he was doing You can do anything vith money So he had a funeral with priests and every honour the music played and he was buried in the ch irch for the deceased General had built that church with his own money and all his family were buried ther. Only this is what happened friends. One month passed and then another and it was all right in the line the third month they informed the General's lady that the watch men had come from that same church What did they want? Thy were brought to her they fell at her feet We can't go on serving your excel lency they said Look out for other watchmen and graciously dismiss us What for? No they said we can't possibly your son howls under the church all night

Alyoshka shuddered and pressed his face to the coachman's back so as not to see the windows

At first the General's lady wild not listen continued the old man All this is your fancy you simple folk have such notions she said A dead man cannot how leads the watchmen cane to him agin and with them the sacristan. So the sacri tan too had the heard him.

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV -40

h w.... The General's I dv saw that it was a ban 1 b h locaed her ed in her bedroom with the w ar n Hare, my friend, here are

me tim were - that no one hould hear or see to de up my en. ppy son, and here him sh

d to ~ a glo. And the wa chinen did to tas day but h himself th General con, is or the cent es O Lord foreign to come transmiss as hed to be hawser. There is the cond to the real when or may

pr v for such prop th aturda before Truntv You mustn't go warms to beg ar for their

ake, t masm, by you ma feed th birds for the es of their souls. The General lady used to go out to the cross- onds every there divis to find the bures. Once at the cross-reads a black doe sud denly appeared it ran up to the bread and wa-

such a we all know what thit d was Th General Lidy was like a half-crazy creature for fire day afterwards h neither a nor drank. All at once she fell on her knees in the garden and praved and praved. Well good bye friend, the bissing of God and the Heavenly

ther be with you Let us go hihale you'll open the ga e fo me.

The fish-banker and the proter went out. The coactiman and Alvosaka went out too so as not to be I fr m th coach-horse.

The man was hving a. d to dead ... and the coachman lover g towards th window where shadows were still flitting to and fro Only this morning he w s walking about the yard and now he 1 lying dead

The time will come and we shall de too said the porter walking away with the fish has ker and at once they both an shed from sight in the darkness

The coachman and Alyosi ka aft r 1 m some what timidly vent up to the light divind ws A very pale lady with large t ar stained eves and a fine-looking grey leaded n an wr moving two card tables into the middle of the r om probably with the intention of laying the d ad man upon them and on the green cloth of the table numbers could still b s en written in chalk. The cook who had run about the yard wailing in the morning vas now standing on a chair stretching up to try and cover the looking glass with a toxel

Grandfather what are this doing? asked Alyoshk in a whisper

They are just going to lay him on the tables ans vered hough and fail rough Let us go child it is bedrim

The coa hman and Myoshka went back to the coaci house They said their prayers and took off the r boots Steran 1 y down in a corner on the floor Alyosl ka in a sled e The door of the coach house vere shut the e was a terrible stench from the extin uished lantern. A little later Alyoshka sat up and looked about him through the crack of the do r he could still see a li ht from thos I ghted windows

Grandfather I am frightened ! he said Come go to sleep go to leep

It ll ou I am frightered What are v u frightened of? What a baby

They were a lent Alyoshka suddenly jumped out of the sledge and

loudly weeping ran to his grandfather

What is t? What the matter? cried the coachman in a fright gett g un also

He s howling

Who h whn ? I am frightened grandfather do you hear?

The co chman listened

It's their crying h said Come' there little sily. They are said so they are crying

I want to go hom his grandson went on sobbing and trembling all over G and father let ur so back to the pilage to mammy come, grandfather dear God will give you the

feavenly kingdom for it What a silly ah Come be qui t be quict

Be quet I will I ght the lantern, silly Th coachman fumbled for the matches and lighted th lantern But the h ht did not comfort

Alvoshka Grandfather St pan I to go to the fillag he besought him weeping I am frightened her h ob how frightened I am A d why did you bring in from th vill ge accursed

Who s an accursed man? You mustn t use such disrespect bl words t yo la ful grand

father I shall whip you

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Do whip me grandfather do beat me like Sidor s goat but only take me to mammy for God s mercy 1

Come come grandson come! the coachman said kindly It's all right don't be frightened I am frightened myself

pravers The door creaked and the porter s head appeared

Aren t you asleep Stepan? h asked I shan t get any sleep all n ht he said coming in

I shall be opening and shutting the gates all What are you crying for Alyoshka? night

He is frighte ied ti e co climan answered for

h s grandson Again there was the sound of a wailing voice in

the air The porter s id

They are crying The mother can't blieve eyes It's dreadfullow ups t she is her eyes And is the fath r there?

The father is all right. He sits

in the corn r and says nothing They hav taken the children to relations Well Stepan shall

v lave a came of trumps?

Yes the coachman agreed scratching him self and you Alyoshka go to sleep Almost big enough to be married and blubbering you rascal Come go along grandson go along

The presence of the porter reassured Alyoshka He vent not very resolutely to vards the sledge and 1 y do n And while he was fallin asleep he

heard a l alf v hisper I b at and cover said his grandfather

I beat and cover repeated the porter

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV The bell rang in the yard the door creaked

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and seemed also saying I beat and cover When Alyrhk dreamed of the gentleman and frightened ly his eyes jumped up and burst out cry ng it was morning his grandfather was snor ng and the coach house no longer seemed terrible

PANIC PEARS

DURING all the years I have been living in the world I have only three times been terrified

world I have only three times been terrined. The first real terror h ch made my h is stand on end and made shivers run all over me was caused by a trival but strange phenomenon. It happened that havin nothing to do one July evenin I drove to the station for the newspapers. It was a still warm almost sultry evening like all those monotonous even ings in July which when once they have s t in po on for a week a fortinght r's sometimes longer in re ular unbroken succession and are suddenly cut short by a violent thunderstorm and a lavish downrour of rain that

The sun had set some time before and an un broken gr y dusk by all over the land. The may kishly a veet scents of the grass and flowers

vere heavy in the motionless starnant air

refreshes everything for a long time

I was dri ng in a rough trolley. Behind my back the garden r s son I ashka a boyof e, bit years old whom I had t ken with me to look after it is horse in ca. of necessity was gently snoring with his head on a sack of oats. Our way lay along a name of the same of the sam

48 THE TALES OF TCHFHOV

a pale l: ht fr m the afterglow of sunset a treak
f light cut ts way th ough a narrow uncouth
lock ng cl ud which seemed sometimes like a boat

and som um s lik a man wrapped in a quilt.

I had dri en a mil and a half or two miles when annut the pale background of the evening glow there cam into s phi one after another some care ful tall pool. a river el unerred beyond

when amit the paic background of the evening glow there can into 8 fit one after another some grar ful tall popt a ri er gir immered beyond there and a gorgeous preture suddenly as though by magic lay tretched before m. I had to stop th horse for our stright oad broke of abruptly and ran down a steep inche eo vergrown with bushes. We were stind g n the h liside and beneath u t th bott m lave a huge hole full of

and ran down a steep include overgrown with bushes. We were six fig n the hilade and beneath u the bott m lav a huge hole full of twulght of fantask hapee and of space. At the bottom of this hole, n a wid plain guarded by the poplars and caresed by the gleaming ir en estiled a villag. It was now sleeping. Its huts its church with the belify its urees stood out gainst the grey twil hit and wer reflected darkly int most hurface of the tree.

I waked Pashka for fear he should fall out and

began caut ously g mg down

Ha e w got to Luk to? asked Pashka,
liftin, his head lazik

luting his head taking

I led the horse down th hill and looked at the hillage. At the first glance o strang circum tame caught my attention at the cryt pof the helic in thus window here cryt pof and the helis at hit was twinking. This light was like the control of the hill the total of the hills. At the mouldering lamp at on in ment dying down at another flickering up. What could

it come from? Its source was beyond my comprehension It could not be burning at the windo v for there were neither ikons nor lamps in the top turret of the belfry there was nothing there as I knew but beams dust and spiders webs It was

hard to climb up into that turret for the passage to it from the belfry was closely blocked up It was more likely than a lything else to be the reflection of some outsile light but though I renection of some official agint but frought is strained my eyes to the utmost I could it is see one other speck of light in the vast exp nsc that lay before me There was no moon. The pale and by now quite d m strenk of the afterglow could not have been reflected for the window looked not to the west but to the east These and other similar considerations were straying through my mind all the while that I was going down the slope with the horse. At the bottom I sat down by the roadside and looked again at the light As before it was glimmering and flaring up

Strange I thought lost in conjecture

Very strange

Very strange
And little by little I vas overcome by an un
pleasant feeling At first I thought that this vas
evation at not being able to explain a simple
phenomenon but afterwards when I suddenly
turned away from the light in horror and caught
hold of Pashka with one hand it became clear that I was overcome with terror

I was seized with a feeling of loneliness misery and horror as though I had beer flung do yn against my will into this great hole fall of shadows

THE TALES OF TENENOV

where I was tand all alone with the belfiv look is at me with its red eye

Paha i ched dos griveres in honor Well?

Pashka, whits thit gearming on thi bedry?

Pashka locked over my holler at the bedry
and call a sawn

and ga a yawr Vho car t 1?

This fri f con ersa in with the box real sured in for a little but not fir lon. Pashka seeme my unealines, fustered his big eyes upon it. I ht

my unextines fistered his big eyes upon the link looked at m and not en gain to the link

I am fine tered h who pered At this point braide my ell with terror Lel tehed

the boy with or hard hidded p to him and gare the horse a violent lish. It set jud I said revself. That pheno-

renon is only terr ! because I d n t understand it every h g we'd n t ur lers and h invsterious.

I thed to persuane invest but at the same tim.

I there when we reached the posts stain I purpose yet as fell hour chitting with the overeand end through two or three rewispores, but the feeling.

of unextuness dal not lea e time. On the way back the Libbt was of the seen, but on the other hard the Libbrettes of the but of the poplars and of the kill up which had to drive seemed to meast how he animated. And who the light was three I don't

animated And who the light was three I don't know to this d'.

The second terror I experienced was excited by:

a ci-cumstance no less tri tal I was returning from a romantic terview. It was one o clock at night the time when nature is buried in the soundest sweetest sleep before the dawn. That time nature was not sleeping and one could not call the night a still one. Corn.rakes qual nightingales and woodcocks were calling crickets and grasshoppers were chirripping. There was a light mist over the grass and cloud were scurry ing straight ahead across the sky near the moon Nature was awake as thou h afra d of missing the best moments of her life.

I walked along a narrow path at the very edge of a railway embankment The moonlight gli led over the lines which vere already covered with dev Great shadows from the clouds kept flitting over the embankm nt Par al ead a dim green light was glimmering peacefully

So everything is well I thou lit looking at

I had a quiet peaceful comfortable feeling in my heart I vas returning from a tryst I had no need to i urry I was not sleepy and I was con scious of youth and health in every sigh every step I took rousing a dull echo in the monotonous hum of the night I don't know what I was feel ng then but I remember I vas happy very happy. I had gone not more than three quarters of a mile when I suddenly heard behind me a monotonous ound a rumbling rather I ke't e roar of a

I had gone not more than three quarters of a motonous ound a rumbing rather I ket for oar of a
great stream. It gr. louder and louder every
second and sounded nearer and nearer. I looked
round a hundred pieces from me was the dark
copie from which I had only just come there the
mbankment turned to the right in a graceful

THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

ur d anished am o the trees. I stood still in perpl nity and waited. A hin e black body ppeared t wee at the turn noi...lt darted towards me and with the viftness. I a bird flew past me aloro, th rails. Less than half a minute passed and the blur bad wa...shed the rumble melted away into the noise of th night.

It was a ordinary goods truck There was n thing peculiar about it in itself but its appear an e with ut an agine and in the night puzzled me Where ould it ha come from and what force s nt it fiving so r p dly aling the rails? Where did t come from and where was it

fly:

If I h d been superstitions I should have made
up my mind t was a party of demons and w tches
journeyin t a devils subbath and hould have
n no n my w but as t as the phenomenon

gen on my w y but as t as the phenomenon was absolutely enexplicable to me I did not believe me eyes, and was ent ingled in conjectures to believe me eyes, and was ent ingled in conjectures I suddenly realized th t I was utt 1 y al n on the wh I as t plant that the might which by now seemed inhospitable was peepin into my face and dogening my foot teps all this sounds the cries of th birds the whisperings of the trees seemed enister and easiting simply to dairm my imagination. I da held in 1 ke a madman, and without relain g what I was d ing I ran trying to run faster and faster. And tonce I heard something to which I had pad no titention before

that is, the plaints whiming of the telegraph wires.

5

This is beyond everything I said trying to shame myself It's cowardice! it's silly

But cowardice was stronger than common sense I only slackened my pace when I reached the green light where I saw a dark signal box and near it on the embankment the figure of a man probably the signalman

Did you see it ? I asked breathlessly

See whom? What?

Why a truck ran by

I saw it the peasant said reluctantly It broke away from the goods train. Ther is an incline at the ninetieth mile dragged uphill. The coupling on the last truck gave way so it broke off and ran back. There is no catcling it now.

The strange phenomenon was explained and its fantastic character vanished. My panic was over and I was able to go on my way.

My third fright came upon me as I was going home from stands shooting in early spring. It was in the dusk of evening. The forest road was covered with pool from a recent hower of rain and the earth squelched under ones feet. The crimson glow of sunset flooded the whole forest colouring the white stems of the birches and the young feaves. I was exhaust d and could hardly move

Four or five miles from home walking along the forest road I suddenly met a big black dog of the water spaniel breed. As he ran by the dog looked intently at me straight in my face and ran on

A nice dog ! I thought Whose is it?

I looked round The dog was standing ten paces off with his eyes fixed on me For a minute we scanned each other in silence then the dog probably flattered by my ttention cane slowly up to me

and wagged his tail I walked on th dog f !! vin me

Whose dog an it be I kept asking myself Whire does hime fr m?

I kne all the count y gentry for twenty or thirty miles round and kne all their dogs of ne of them had a spaniel lk that How did he come to be in the d pths fth f est on a track used f r noth n but carting timber? He could

hardly ha e dropped bel nd someon passing through for ther was nowh r for the gentry to dray to along that oad I sat do vn on a tump to rest and began scru

timzing my ompanion He too sat down stare H g ed t m w thout blinking I don't know whether t vas the influ nc of th tillness th shad ws and sounds of th fo est or perhaps a result of xh ust on but I suddenly f it uneasy unde the steady gaz f his ordinary doggy eyes I thought of Faust and his bulld g and of the fact that nervous people sometimes when exhausted ha hallucinations That was en ugh to make me get up hurriedly and hurriedly walk on Th dog f llowed m

Go away I houted

Th dog pr b bly liked my ce for he gave a gleeful jump and an about in front of me Go a av! I shouted again

and wagged his tail good humouredly Evidently my threatening tone amused him I ou ht to have patted him but I could not get Faust a dog out of my head and the feeling of panic grew more and more acute Darkness v as coming on which completed my confusion and every time the dog ran up to me nd hit me with his tail like a coward I shut my eyes. The same thing happened as with the li ht ii the belfry and the truck on the railw y I could not stan i it and

rushed a vay At home I found a visitor an ld friend who after greeting me began to complain that as he was driving to me he had I st his ay in the forest and a splendid valuable dog of his had dropped bel ind

THE BET

THE BET

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IT was a dark autumn might. The old banker was walkin up and down his study and rem mbering how fifteen years before, he had given a party one autumn evening. There had been many clever men there and there hid been interesting e nv. rsa tions. Among offer things they had talked of cajital punishment. The majo ity of the guestiannen, whom were many journalists and intel lectual men disapproved of the death penalty. They considered that form of punishment out of date immoral and unsuitable fo Christian States in it eo pa non of some of the mt et death penalty ought to be replaced every, here by impri onment for the

I don't agree with you said their host the birker. It has enot tried either the death penalty to imprisonment for his but if one may judge a priori the dath pinalty is mor moral and more lumane than in pri onn ent for his Capital munsi ment kill a mai tone but his long, imprisonment kill a mai tone but his long, imprisonment kill him lowly. Witch execution rith the more lumane he v.lo kill v.u in a few minutes or he who drags the hise out of you in the course of many years?

Both ar equally improral observed one of the guests for they both have the same object—to take av ylife. The State is not God. It has not the right to take av av what it cannot restore

hen it wants to

Among the guests was a young lawyer a youn man of fix and twenty. When he was asked his opin in he said.

The death inten and the life sentence are equally immoral but if I had to choose between the death penalty and imprisonment for I fe I vould certainly choos th second To li e anyhow is

better than not at all
A lively discuss on arose The banker who was

younger and more nervous in these days was sud dealy carried as ay by restement he struck the

t bl with his fit and houted tith young man
Its not true I ll bet y u to millions you
wouldn't tay in solitary confinement for five

vears

If you mean th t in earnest—said the young
man. I'll take a bet but I would stay not fi e

but fifteen year
Fifteen > Don cried th banker Gentle

men, I take two mills us

Agreed Y u tak your millions and I stak my freedom said the young man

And this wild senseles bet was carried out The banker spoilt and fri olous with millions bey nd his reckoning was delighted at the bet At's pper he made fun of the youn man, and said

At sopper he made fun of the youn man, and said.

Think bette of it you gran while there is till time. To me two mills no are a trifle but you

are losing thre or four of the best years of your life. I say three or four because you wor t stay longer. Dont forget either you unhappy man that voluntary confinement: a great deal harder to bear than compul ory. The th ught tlat y u have the right to step out in hierty at any moment will poson your whole existence in pris n. I am sorry for you.

And now the banker walking to and fro re m mbered all this and asked hims if What was the object of that bet ? Wh t is the good of that mans losing fitten years of his life and my throwing away two millions? Can it prove the through away two millions? Can it prove the the death penalty is better or worse than impromental for life? No no It was all nonsensical and meaningless. On my part it was the caprice of a pampered man and on his part simple greed for money.

Then he remembered what follo ed that even ing It was decaded that the young man should spend the years of his ear it with under it estimates supervision in one of the lodges in the banker's gard in It was agreed that for hitcen years he should not be feet to cross the intreshold of the lodge to see human beings to hear the human orice, or to receive eletters and newspipers He was allowed to have a musical instrument and books and was allowed to write I tiers to drink with a supervision of the supervis

quantity h desired by writing an order but could only rece veth m through the window. The agree ment pro index for every detail and every trifle that would make his impressionment structly, solitary and bound the young man to stay there exactly fifteen years beginning from twelve o clock of Nov mber 14 1850 and end ng at twelve o clock of November 14 1859. The sughtest attempt on his part to break the conditions if only two mightes before the end it leased the banker from

the obligation to p y him two millions. For th fir tyear of his confinement as far as one could judge fr m his br I notes the prisoner suffered we rich from lon line and depress on The sounds of the pano wild be heard outninably day and might four his lodge. He clissed wine and the confinement of the confinement of

In the econd y ar the pin was il nt n the lodge and the pris ner asked only for the class co. In the fifth year music was width! gain and the prisoner asked for wine. Those who with del him through the window said that all thit y ar he spent doing n thing but et ing and drinkin n hing on his bed I equently y rung and angrily talkin to himself. He dd n t r ad books som times at night h would st d with to writ

he would spend hours viiting and in the morning tear up all that he had written. More than once

he could be heard crying
In the second half of the sixth year the prisoner began zealously studying languages philosophy and history. He three himself eigerly into these studies—so much so that the banker had enough to do to get him the books he ordered. In the course of four years some six hundred volumes were procured at his request It was during this period that the banker received the following

letter from his prisoner

My dear Gaoler I write you these lines in six languages Show them to people who know the languages Let them read them If they find not one mistake I implore you to fire a shot in the garden That shot vall show me that my efforts have not been thro vn away. The genuses of all ages and of all land speak different languages but the same flame burns in them all. Oh it you only knew wi at unearthly happiness my soul feels now from b ing able to understand them. The prisoner's desire was fulfilled. The banker ordered two shots to be fired in the garden

Then aft r tl e t nth year th prisoner sat im movably at the table and read nothing but the movatly at the table and read nothing out it of Goop. It is med strange to the banker that a man who in fur years had mastered six hindred learned a lumes should waste nearly a year over one thin book and of comprehension. Theology and histories of religion followed the Gospels. In the last two year of his confinement the

prisoner read an immense quantity of books quite

indiscriminately At one time he was busy with the natural sciences then he would ask for Byron or Shakespeare There were notes in which he de-manded t the sam time books on chemistry and a manual of med cine and a novel and .ome treatise on philosophy or theology. His reading suggested a man swimm n in the sea among the wreckage of his sh p and tryin to ave his life by greedily clutching first at one spar and th n at another

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The old banker membered all this and thought To-morrow at twel e o clock he will regain his

freedom By our agreement I ought to pay him two mill ons If I do pay him it is all o er with

m I shall be utterly runed

Fifteen years befor his millions had been beyond his reckoning now he was alraid to ask himself which we a preater his debt or his assets. Desperat gambling on th Stock Exchange wild specul ti n and the excitability which h could not get over even in adv noing years had by degrees led to the decline of his fortune and the proud fearles, self confid at millionai e had become a banker of middling ank trembling at every rise and fall in his investments every rise and fail in his investments turved to the muttered the old man clutching his! ad in despair. Why d dnt the man di? He is only forty now. He will it ke my last penny from m he will marry will enjoy!! will gamb! on the Exchange while! shall look at him with my! It a beg_ar and hear from him every d y th same sentence I am indebted to you for tiel appiness of my life let me help you! No it is too much! The one means of being saved from bank ruptcy and disgrace is the death of th t man

It struck three o clock the b nker listened everyone was asleep in the house and in tuning could be heard outside but the rustling of the chilled trees. Trying to make no noise he took from a fireproof safe the key of the door whin had not been opened for fifteen years put on hin o ercoat.

and went out of the house

It was dark and cold in the garden Rain was falling A damp cutting wind was racing about the garden howing and giving the trees no rest. The banker strained his eyes but could see mether the earth nor the wite statues nor the lodge nor the trees. Cong to the spot where the lodge stood het wice called the watchmar No answer followed Evidently the watchman had sought shelter from the weather and was now usle ps in where ther in the kitchen or in the greenhouse

If I had the pluck to arry out my ntention thought the old man suspicion would fall first

upon the watchman

He felt in the darkness for the steps and the door and went into the entry of th lodge. Then he groped his way into a littl passage and lighted a match. There was not a oul there. There was a bedstead with no beddin on it and in the corner there was a dark cast iron stove. The seals on the door leading to the prison rs rooms vere intered.

When the match went out the old man trembling

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th emotion peeped throu h the little window \(\) canil \(\) a burning dimly in the prisoners or from He was sitting at the table. Nothing coull be een \(\) b the back the hair on his head and his \(\) and \(\) Open books were lying on the table on the two easy di in \(\) and in \(\) and it is carpet hear the table.

I and Open books werelying on the table on the two eavy chi ive and in the carpet near the table. Fit e minutes passed and the prisoner did not one stir. Fit feerly are impresonment had taught him to sit still. The bank tapped at the window with his finger and the prisoner mid en on movement hite er in response. Then the banker cautiously broke the seal off the door and put the key in the ky hole. The report of the seal of the door and put the key in the ky hole of the sealed. The banker expected to her it is foots passed and and the tree minutes passed and it was as quiet as ever in the room. He made up his mind to go in

quet as ever in the room. If made up his mind to go in.

At the tabl a man unlk o of nary people was sitting montonless. He was a skel ton with the kin drawn tight over his bones with long cutts like a womans and a shigy bear! His face was yellow with an earthy tint in it his checks were bollow his back long and narrow and th hand on which his shagey head was propped y as so thin and d.h at that it was deadful to look at it.

was sellow with an earthy tint in it his cheeks were bollow his back long and narrow and it hand on which has shaggy head wa, propped vas so thin and d.h. at eithat it was deadful to look at it. His hair was alrealy steaked with sil er and seeing his emicated aged look or fac no one would hive believed that he was only forty. It was askeep. In front of his bowed head there lay on the table a sheet of paper on which there was sometimg written in fine hand or ting. Poor creatur: I thought the basis

a leep and most likely dreaming of the millions And I have only to take this half-dead man throw him on the bed stiffs him a little with the pillow and the most conscientious expert would find no sign of a violent death But let us first r ad what he has written here.

The banker took the page from the t ble and read as follows

read as follows

To-morrow it telve o clock I regain my freedom and the right to associate with other men
but before I leave this room and see the sunshine
I think it necessary to say a fell vords to you
With a clear conceince I tell you as b fore God
tho beholds me that I deeple freedom and life
and health and all that my our books is called the
good things of the orld

For fifteen years I have been intently studying earthly life. It is true I have not seen the earth nor men but in your books I have drunk fragrant vine. I have sung songs. I have hunted stage and wild boars in the forests have I ved somen.

Resulting a travel are desired extended to the things me.

wild boars in the forests ha elved somen Beauties as it ereal as clouds created by the magic of your poets and genuses have a sited in an it and ha e whispered in my ars wonderful tales the thave et my brain in a whirl. In your books I have climbed to the peaks of Elburg and Mont Blanc and from ther. I halve seen the sun rise and halve watched it at eleming flood the sky the oce in and the mountain tops with gld and crimson. I have a tatled from there the lightning flashin over my heal and cleaving the storm cloud. I have seen green forests felds rivers lakes town. I have leard the singern of the

tens at ith strus of the slepherds pipes
I h t hed the in s of comely devids who
Ne d with one see with me of God In
Sou bock. It v flung myself into the bottomless
Ilt prif med m racles slin burned towns
prached new religions conquered whole king

Your books have go en me w sdom All that

the unresting the 9ht of man I as created in the ages is compressed into a small compass in my brain. I know that I am wiser then all of you

And I despise y books I despise wisdom and the bles in sold is yill like all worthless fireting illusory and decipt e like a mirage You may b po I are and fin but death will wipe you off the f c of the earth as th u h you were no more than mic burro ang und r the floor and your posterity your history your immortal geniuses will burn or f eez to ether with the earthly globe

You have lot you eason and taken the wrn p th You ha t k n hes f truth and hideousness for beauty to would marvel if owing t strange event of some sorts from and lizards suddenly gree on apple and oran trees astead of fruit ref rowes be an t smell like a sweating horse so I mary I at you who exclange hea n for eartl I don't want to understand

y u
To prove t you in act on ho I despise all
th tyou h by I enounc the two milions f
which I one dreamed as of pa ad seand hinh n
I despise To deprive myself of the hit to th

money I shall go out from here five hours before the time fixed and so break the compact

When the banker had read this he laid the page on the table kis ed the stran e man on the head and went out of the lodge weeping. At no other time even when he had lost heavily on the Stock Exchange had he felt so great a contempt for

himself When he got home he lay or his bed but his tears and emotion kept him for hours from sleepin. Next morning the watchmen ran in vith pale faces and told him they had seen the man who lived in the lodge climb out of the window into the garden go to the g te and d sappear The banker vent at once vith the sir ants to the lod e and made sure of the flight of hi prisoner To avoid arousing unnecessary talk he took from the table the writing in vh ch the millions ere re-

nounced and , hen he got home locked it up in the fireproof safe

THE HEAD CARDENERS STORY

THE HEAD GAPDENEL S STORY

A SALE of flowers was taking place in Count N s greenhouses Th purchasers ver fe vin numbe -a landovner who vas a neighbour of in ne a young timber merchant and mys if While th workmen were carrying out our magn ficent pur ha es and packing them into the carts we sat at the entry of the greenhou e and chatted about one th n and another It is extremely pleas at

to sit in a garden on a still April morning listen ing to the birds and watchin, the floy ers brought out into the open air and basking in the sunshine The head gardener Mihail Karlovitch a vener able old man with a full shaven face wearing a fur waistcoat and no coat superintended the pack ing of th plants himself but at the same time h listened to our con ersation in the hope of

hearing somethin new He was an intelligent ery good hearted man respected by everyone He vas for some reason looked upon by every one as a German though he was in real ty on his father s s de Sy edish on his mother s side Russian and attended the Orthodox church He knew Rus an Syedi h and German He had read a

good deal in those languages and nothing one could do have him greater pleasure than I nding him

som w bx } w talkir, to him for instance about then

If I dh v akieses but if ey were innocent

h called himself it e I ad gardener thou h

iter w o rd r gard eers it expression

f hi f c w u usually dignified and hauefty

could n t i La to be contrad eted, and liked

I could n t t ! I to be contracted, and near
the list ned to the spect and attention
If at youn, f il w th re I n recommend to
ou as an awful rascal d my neighbour
pointing to a labo er with wartly gray face
who dro e by wit it w t v barr I Last week
h w s tried n il to for burglary and was h w s tried n it i for burglary and was acquitted it n pronounced im m italij derarged ar lij t look at lim light produced by me that light acquired ar lij t look at lim light produced behalth. Secondrels ar evoft in n quitted now ad significant to the second absertation 3 t these acquired is these unmistakable proofs of in indulgent littled to crimiled to no good. This directly the masses it esense of justice is blunted in all as they become accurate of the second of the second in the second of the second in the second of the second in the second of the s

That's ery true the merch nt a sented
Owing to these frequent requitals murder and
arson has become much mor common Ask the peasants

If hall Karlovit h turned t wards us an i said

As far as I am concerned gentlemen I am always delighted to meet with these verd ts of n tiguilty. I amin tafe id for moral ty and just ce

when they ay Not guilty but on the contrary I fel pleased. Even when my conscience tell me the jury have made a mistake in acquitting the criminal even then I am triumpliant. Judy, for yourselves gentlemen if the judges and the jury have more faith in rian than in evidence material proof and speeches for the prosecution is not that this man, in itself higher than any ordinary con siderations? Such faith is only attainable by those few who understand and feel Christ

A fine thought I said

But it s not a new one I rem mbcr a very long time ago I heard a legend on that subject A very charming legend sail the garden r and he smiled I was told it by my grandmother my father s mott for an exceller told lady. She told me it in Swedish and it do s not so ind so fine so classical in Rissaya.

But we begged him to tell it and not to be put off by the coarseness of th Russian language Much gratified he deliberately I bted his pipe looked angrily at the labourers and began

There stilled in a cert in little to in a solitary plain 1d ty gentleman called Thomson or What plain 1d ty gentleman called Thomson or What plain tic point 1 fee followed an honourable profession he as a doctor. He was always morose and un sociable and only spoke when required by his pession. He ne er visited anyone never extended 1 is acquantiance beyond a silert bow and lived as humbly as a hermit. The fact was he was a learned min and in thos. days learned men we not 1 he other people. They spent them days and

THE TALES OF TCHEHOL ,6

ni tsin ortemp tion in readir and in leali-disease ked upon everything less as trivial nd had no time to was a word. The inhab, are's

fit town understood this and tried not to worry him with their visits and empty chatter. They were ery glid that God had sent thin at last a man who could had diseases and were prood that

such rema kabi man was hang in their town

such remarkable man was lating in their town.

If knows everythen they such as a latin and all that wa not enough to hard all as that was not enough to hard a winderful argelic beart. Thou hit people for the lovest trangers and not hit own people the child, not all did not span hinned for their different transports.

like child. n a.d did n t spax himsel for them the was himself II with consumption he had a cough b t when h was surmoned to the ca. be forgot his own illnesh d d r t pa, himself and gas-ing for breath climbed p it h his howe of high they might be II dis egarded the Lity hes and the cold deep set thinst and burger He would accept no roney and tring to say when one of his patients died h would I low the coffin with the reations weep.

And soon he became so necessary to the town And soon he became so necessary to the town that the inhabitants wondered he when could a we got on before without the man. Their grat tude knew no bounds. Grown up peopl, and children good and bod all knews he was not cheateraged and bod alk brosel men and cheateraged in fact espected him and knew he value. In the little town and all the surrounding, in hibourhood there was no man who would have himself to do anything, d.s. greeable to him indeed they would never have dreamed of it. When he came out of his lod in he never fastened the doors or vin los in complete confidence that there was no thief who could bring him elf to do him wrong. He often had in the course of his med cal duties to valk along the highreads through the forests and mountains huntied by nut b is of hungry vagrants but he felt that he as in perfect security. One might he was returning fir ma pathent when

robbers fell upon him in the forest but when they recognized him they took of their hasts respectfully and offered him something to e t. When he answered that le was not hungry, they gave him a wrim. T p and accompanied hin as far as the to n lappy that fat lad gie in them the chance in some small way to show their gratitude to the benevol it man. Well to be sure my grand moth t told me that even the horses and the cos and the dogs knew him and expressed thur joy which tiey met him. And this jam who seemed by his s n titly to

ohave guarded himself from every evil to whom even brigands and fren ied men wished nothin but good was one fine morning found murdered Covered ith blood i th his skull broken he was lying n a ravine and his pale face wore an eyres so no fam zement. Yes not horror but amazement was the motion that had been fixed upon his face when he saw the murderer before him you can magune the grief that over-whelmed the inhabit nts of th town and the surroundin d's trets. All we ein despar unable to believe their eyes wonder g who could have killed the man

2 S THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

The judg s who on I cted the enquiry and examit the internal is said. If re we have all the In the third is a single of not a man in the will gill four ring or doctor obviously it would be simple from the moder of the combination for the moder in the modern of the m

uppose it in it interests in the into the ravine of it. If and war, it lly injured.

The whole in size of with this opinion in dictore when I and it has not examined to be in the could be in the interest of a man it could be in one of cred by the interest of a man in the could be in one of cred by the interest of a man in the could be in one of cred by the interest of a man in the could be in one of cred by the interest of a man in the could be in one of cred by the interest of a man in the could be interested by the could be in e ent wikl > nttler

All t n ully u believe t chince led them t disco ering the murder t \ arrart who had been m my times con a ted in t thou for his s cloushif we seen ciling for drink a uff box and watch that had belonged to the doctor. Whin he was q e-t ned h was confu ed and ans vered with n I rou I A sear hw m de and m hi bed w s fo nda hirt w th ta is of blood on th sleeves nd a doct is I not set n gold. What more evidence as wanted? They put the criminal in prison. The nh hitants ver indignant and at the sam t m said

Its incredit ! It can't be so Take care that a mistak is not made t does happen you know that et d nee tell a false tale

At his trial the nurderer obst n t ly denied his guilt Everything as against him and to be con need f his guilt was as easy a to belie e th this earth is black but the j dge- eem to tave gone mid they we had every proof ten times looked distrustfully at the witnesses flushed crin son and sipped water The trial began early in the morning and was only finished in the evening

Accused! the chief judge said addressing the murderer the court has found you gulty of murdering Dr. Lo-and so and has sentenced you to

The chief judge meant to say to the death penalty but he dropped from his I ands the paper on which the sentence via written wiped the cold sweat from I is face and cried out

No May God punsh me if I judie ewrongly but I se ear he is not rullty I cunnot admit the thought that it er exists a man who vould dare to murder our friend the doctor \text{\text{Van}} an could not sunk so lov?

There cannot be such a man the other judges assented

No the crowd ried Let him go

The murder r was set fre to go h re he chose and not one soul blamed th court for an unjust erd ct. And my grandmother used to say that for such faith in humanity God forga ve the suns of all the inhabitants of that town. He rejoices when people believe that man is His image and semblance and grieves if f regetful of human dignity they judge wo se of men than of dows The s netice of cquittal may bring harm to the inhabitant of the town but on the other hand thusk of the beneficial influence upon them of it it faith in man—a faith which does not remain dead you know it raises up generous feel ngs in us

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carts and with an expression of dignity went on

looking after the pa king

and always impels us to love and respect every man. L. ry man. And that is important. Mit all karlo with had finilled. My neighbour would have urged some objection but the head gardener made a gesture that signified that he did not lke objections then he walked away to the

THE BEAUTIES

THE BEAUTIFS

I REMEMBLE when I was a high school boy in the fifth or sixth class 1 as driving with my grand father from the village of Bolshoe Lryepko in the Donre on to Po tov on the Don It vas a sultry languidly dreary day of Aug st Our eyes were glued to other and our mouths were parched from the he t and the dry b rning win 1 wh ch drove clouds of duct to mict us one did not want to look or spe k or think and hen our dro vsv driver a Little Russ an called Karpo swung his wh p at the horses and lashed me on my ap I did not protest or utter a sound but only rousing rivelf from half slumber gazed mildly and de rectedly into the distance to see whither there y as a villag visible through the dust. We stopped to f ed the horses n a big Armen an v liage at a rich Arm nans whom my grandfather knew in my life l ave Is n a greater caric ture than that Armenian Imagine a littl shaven had with thick overhanging eyebrois a beak of a nose long grey moustaches and a wide mouth with a lor, cherry 1 ood cl ibouk sticking out of it This little head was clun's ly attached to lean hunch back carcase attired in a fantast c g rb a st ort red

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ja ket and full bright blue trousers. This figure walked traddling its legs and shuffling with its hppers spoke with it taking the chibouk out of it mouth and behaved with truly Armenian d gnity not smiling but staring with wide-open eyes and trying to take as little notice as possible

of ts guest

Ther was neither wind nor dust in the Armenian's rooms but it was just as unpleasant stifling and dreary as in the steppe and on the road. I rem mber dusty and exhausted by the heat I sat in the orn r n a green box. The un painted wood n walls the furniture and the floors coloured with yell w ochr smelt of dry wood baked by the sun Wherever I looked there were flies and flies and flies Grandfather and the Armenian were talking about grazing about manure and about oats I knew that they would be a good hour getting the samovar that grandf ther would be not less than an hour drink ing his tea and then w uld li down to sleep for two or three hours that I should waste a quarter of the day waiting after which there would be again the heat the dust the liting cart. I heard the muttering of the two voices and it began to seem to me that I had been seeing the Armenian the cupboard with the crockery the flies the windows with the burning sun beating on them for ages and ages and hould only cease to see them n the lar-off future and I was seized with hatred for the stepper the sun the flies

A Little Russian peasant woman in a kerchief brought in a tray of tea things then the samovar

The Armenian went slov ly out into the pas age and shouted Mashya come and pour out tea Where are you Mashya?

Hurried footsteps or heard and there came into the room agint of sixteen in a simple cotton dress and a whit kerchief A sh washed the crockery and pour do ut th tea, sh v standing, with her back to me and all I could e as that when was of a slender figure bare forced and that the her I the bare heels vere covered by I ng trusers. The Armenan in rited me to hive t a. Sitting

The Armenian in sted me to hive that Sitting down to the table I glanced at the girl who was handin me a gluss of te and I it all at once as though a wind ver blo ving over my soul and blowing a vay all the impressions of the daw with their dust and drearnnes. I sat the bettching features of the most be utiful face I ha ever met in real life or in my dreams. Before me stood a beauty and I recognized that the first glance as I shot it had over ginz of hightning.

I an re dy to s ar that Masha—or as her tather called her Mashy — as a real be ut; but I don't kno how to prive it. It sometimes happens the tel ud are huddled I together in dis order on the horizon and it e sky with tunts of every possible shade—crimson orange gold filac muddly pink, one cloud is like a monk another like a fish a furth fike a furk in a turban. The glow of sunset en eloping a third of this ky gleams on the cross on the church flashes on the windows of the manor house is reflected in the river and the pudlies juivers on the trees fur far as ay

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ag inst the background of the sunset a flock of wild du ks i flying homewards. And the boy herding the ows and the surveyor drt ing in his chase o er the dam and the gentleman out for a valk all gaze at the sunset and ery on of them thinks it terribly beautiful but no one knows or can say in what its beauty lis.

I vas not the only one to think the Armenian garl beautiful My grandfather an old man of eventy gruff and indifferent to vomen and the beauties of nature looked caressingly at Masla for a full minut and asked

I that your d ught r A e t Nazar tch?

Yes she is my d ughter answered the

Armenian
A fine young lady said my grandfather approvingly

provingly
An artist would have alled th Armen an gui's
beauty class cal and ever type that beauty
the c nt mplation of vinbe—God kno s' hy!—
nspires in one the conviction th tone is seeing
correct featur is th thair eyes n se mouth neck,
besom and every movement of the youn body
all go t geth r in one c mpl te harm mous accord
in which nature has n t blundered over the mallest
line You famely if no meason that the deally
beaut full we meason that the feeling
the specific of the service of the service of the service of the
cyes such long lashes such a langu d glance you
fancy it is the bla k cutify har and ey brows go
with the soft whit tunt of her brow and cheeks
as the green reeds go with the quet stre m

Masha's white neel, and her youthful bosom were not fully developed but you famey the sculptor would need a great creative genuss to moull them You gaze and little by little the desire come over you to Say to Masha something extroordinarily pleasant sincere beautiful as be utiful as she herself was

At first I felt hurt and abashed that Masha took no notice of me but was all the tim look ng, do vn it seemed to me as thou ha peculiar atmosphere proud and happy separated ler from me and jealously screened her from me xess.

That's because I am c red with lust 1

thought am sunburnt and am still a boy

But little by little I forgot myself and gave

myself up entirely to the conscious ness of brauty I thought no more now of the dreary steppe of the dust no longer heard the buzzing of the flies no longer tasted the tea and f it nothing vcept that a beautiful girl v as strinding only the other side of the the

I felt this bounty rath r strangely. It vas not desire nor existay, nor er poym nt that Masha excited n me but a painful though pleasant sad nrs. It was a sadness vague and undefined as a dream. For some reason I felt sorry for myself for my grandfalther and f r the Armenian even for the girl herself and I had a feeling as though e all four had lost something important and essential to life, which we should never find a sim. My grandfalther too grew melanel oly he talked no more about minure or about oats but sat silent looking be suely at Masha.

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After tea my gran litther lay down for a nan sh ! I w nt out of the house into the porc! The touse lik all the touses in the Armenian villag stood in the full sun there was not a tree not an a vning no shad The Armenian's gr at court yard mergrown itl goosefoot and wild mallows. was he els and full of g 1 ty in spite of the gr at he t Threshing as going on behind one of the I v hurdles which int rected the big yard fere an I ther Round a post stuck into the middle f the threshin floor ran do en horses har

nessed s le by the o that this formed one long ad us A Little I us an in a long waistcoat and full trousers as walking bes de them crack ing a whip and shout ng in a tone that sounded as though he ner peering at the horses and showing off his poy er over them

A-a-a you lamn d brutes

A-a-a ringu tak y u! Are you fi ht ned?

The horses sorrel white and piebald not under standing hy they w r m de to run round in one place and t crush tile wheat stray ran un villin ly as though with effort s vingin, their tails with an offended air The wind aised up perfect clouds of golden cl all from under the r hoofs and carried it a sy far hey nd the hurdle Near ti tall fresh stacks peasant omen vere a armine ith rakes and carts wer mo ing and beyond the stacks in another yard nother dozen imilar horses were running round a port and a simil r Little Rus. n as cracking his whip nd jeer ng at the I ors

The top o which I was siting were hot in the

thin rails and here and there on the window frames sap was oozing out of the wood from the heat red lady birds were huddlin together in the streaks of shadow under the steps and under the shutters. The sun was baking me on my head on my chest and on my back bir I did not not it it and i as conscious only of the thud of bare feet on it e un. eve i floor in the passage and in the rooms behind me After claring way the teathings Masha ran down the sters fluttering the air as she passed and like a bird flex into a little grif ly outhouse-I suppose the k tchen-from which came the smell of roast mutton and the sound of angry talk in Armenian She vani b d nto th dark door vay and in her place there appeared on the threshold an old bent red f crd Armenian voman wearing green trous is The ld woman was upry and as scold ing someone Soon afterwards Masha appeared in the doors ay fit hed with the heat of the k tchen and carrying a big black loaf on her shoulder swaying gracefully under the weight of the bread she ran across the yard to the threshing floor of rted ov r the hurdle and wrapt in a cloud of golden chair vanished b limit the cart's The Little Pussian who was dri ing the horses lovered highly sank into a lence and gazed for a minute in the direction of the carts. Then a ten the Armenian girl darted again by the horses and leaped over the hurdl he followed her with hi eyes and shouted to the horees in a tone as though he ver greatly disappointed

Pi gue take you unclean devil
And all the vhil I was unceasingly hearing her

THE TALES OF TCHEHOA

bar feet and eeing how she walked across the yard with a grive preoccupied face. She ran wid with the steps swithing, the air about me now it the kitcher how to it threshing floor ow thou it the gate and I could hardly turn my

ow thou I the gate and reduced hardy taking a display in our, he to watch her And the oftener she fi ttered by me with her beauty it is more acut became my sadress. I fut ery both for her and for myself and for the atti Russian who mournfully watefel for every tim she an thr u th loud of charl to the earls. Whether it was en the beauty or that I was recreit in that I was recreit in the distribution of the same transfer of the same transfer or the same transfer of the

atti Russan We on mournilly water or ret extra the state of the transfer of the state of the transfer of the state of the

properly at Ma.ha when Karpo dro c up to the re bathed th horse d began to put it in the shafts. The wet horse snorted with pleasure and kicked his hoofs a state the shafts. Karpo shouted to t Ba—ack. My grandlather woke up Masha opened the creaking gates for use got into the chaise and drow out of the yard. We drove in all nee as thou I we were angry with on an ther.

When, two o three hours later Postos and Nahitchev in appeared in the distinct Karpo.

who had been silent the whole time looked round quickly and said

A fine vench that at the Armenian's And he lashed his horses

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Another time after I had become a student I was travelling by rail to the south. It was Vay At one of the stations. I believe it was between Byelgorod and Harkov I got out of the train to walk about the platform.

The shades of e ening vere already lying on the station garden on the platform and on the fields the station screened off the sunset but on the top-most clouds of smoke from the engine—hich were tinged with rosy hit one could see the sun had not yet quite vanished

15.1 'alked up and down the platform I noticed that the great a number of the passengers are standing or walking near a econd class compart ment and that they looked as though some celebrated person ver in that compartment. I mon the curious whom I met near this compartment. I ask no ever an artillery officer who had been my fellow traveller an intelligent cordula and sympathetic fallow—as people roostly are whom we meet on our travels by chance and with whom we are not long sconaimted.

What are you looking at there? I asked
He made no ansy er but only indicated y th his

eyes a feminine figure. It was a youne girl of seventeen or eighteen wearing a Russian d.ess vith

or THE TALES OF TCHEHOV

her head bare and a little shawl finng careles. It is on one should r rot a passenger but I suppose a sister or dat her of the tation master care standing, near the carriage vindow talking to nedderly woman who was in the train. Before I had tim to realiz what I vas seeing I was didenly of erwhelmed by the feeline I had one

experienced in the Arm ian village

The girl was remarkably beautiful and that was unmistakable to me and to those who were looked at her as I was

If ore is to describe her appearance feature by

feature as the pactice s th only realth lovely thin was her thick w 7 fair hair which hur, loope with a black ribbon t ed ound her bead all the other features er c their irregular or very ceduars. Either from a peculiar form of court thiness or from short is glitedness her eyes were screwed up her nose had an underded tilt her mouth was mall, her profit was feebly and in pully drawn, her shoulders were narrow and on est popel for her small, better long and the hoppers of the strength of th

Standing at the evening damp continually looking round tus at on moment put her arms akimbo at

the next raised her hands to h r head to straighten her hart talked laughed while her face at one moment wore an expression of wonder the next of horror and I don't remember a moment when her face and body were at rest. The v hole secret and magic of her beauty lay just in these tiny infrartely degant movements in her smile in the play of her face in her rapid glunces at u. in the comb nution of the subtle grace of her movements with her youth her freshness the purity of her soul this sounded in her laugh and voice and with the weak ness velove so much in children in bird in fawns and in young trees

It was that butterfly a beauty so in keepin a thin waltzing darting about the garden laughter and gaiety and incongruous with serious thought greef and repose and it seemed as thou he a gust of wind blowing over the platform or a fail of rain would be enough to wither the fragle body and scatter the capricious beauty like the pollen of a flower.

So-o' the officer muttered with a sigh when after the second bell we went back to our compartment

And what that So—o meant I will not unde

Perhaps he was sad and d d not vant to go away from the beauty and the spring evening into the stuffy train or p rhaps he like me was unaccountably sorry for the beauty for himself and for me and fr all the passengers who we in the stay and reductantly suuntering brick to their compartments. As e passed the stat on

window at which a pale red haired telegraphist with up tinding url and a faded broad cheeked fac was sitting beside his apparatus the ficer his ved a siph and said

meer n wed a sipn and saud

I bet th t t legraphist is in love with that
pr tyg girl To h i c o t in the wilds under one
roof it that ethereal creature and not fall in
love; bey nd th powe of man And what a
calamity my friend what an ironical fate to
b stooping unke npt grey a decent fellow and not
a fool and to be n l ve with that prefix, stupid

calamity my friend what an ironical fate to be stooping unke npt grey a decent fellow and not a fool and to be n l ve thi that pretty stupid little girl who uld n v take a scrap of notice I you Or rese still mag ne that tel graphist is in lov and at the me tim married and th t has wif is as stooping as unk mpt and as decent a person as h missíf

On the platform between our arraage and the next the guard as stanling it his selbows on the rail g looking in the direct in f the beautiful gil and his batter de wrinkled in injensantly beely face exh sted by sleeples, nights and the beely face exh sted by sleeples, nights and the happness his own y ut bookerness purity wife children as the only of the been supported in the stank of the declaration of the deepest adness a though in the fight is with appness his own y ut bookerness purity wife children as the he were pentine and feeling in his whole berg that that gul vas not his and that for him with his premature old a, his un outhness of his beely face the ordunary hip pness fa man and a passenger as as far a sy as heaven.

The thi d bell rang the wh ties sound d and th train lovly moved off First th guard the state n master thin the galden the beaut ful girl with her exqui itely sly smile passed before our windows

Putting my head out and looking back I saw how lookin, after the train she walked alon the platform by the window where the telegraph clerk was sitting smootled her hair and ran into the garden The station no longer screened off the sunset the plain lay open before u 1 ut the sun had already set and the smoke lay in black louds over the green velvety young corn. It was

melancholy in the spring air and in the darkening ky and n the rall vay carriage The familiar figure of the guard came into the

carriag and he be an lighting the candles

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE DEVIL

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE DIVIL

Ir was Christmas Eve Marya had lon, been soming on the stove all the paraffin in the little lamp had burnt out but Fyoder Nilov still sat at work. He would long a to have fluing saide his work and gone out into the street but a cut toner from I olokolny Lame who had a fortingist the form that had but a fortingist to the said of the said of

It's a convict slife! I fyodor grumbled as he worked Some people have been asleep I ag a o oft is are enjoying themselves while you there like some Cain and sew for the devil knows hom.

To say himself from accidentally falling asleep he kept takin a bottl from under the table and drinking out of it and after every pill at it he twisted his head and said aloud.

What is the eason kindly tell me that custome s enjoy themselves whil I am forced to it and work for them? Because they have report and Lama horses.

money and I am a beggar?

He l at d all his customers espec ally the one who hived in Kolokolny Lane. He was a gentle-

man of gio my appearance with long hair a vello fac blue pectacles and a hu ky voice. H had a German name hich one could not pronounc. It was mposs ble to tll what was his call and hat h id. When a fortin ht bf r Fvodo had gon t take his measure he he ust mer was it in on th floor rounding

the ust mer was itt ng on the floor pounding something in a mortar Befo Fyodor had time to say good morning the contents of the mortar sold nly flared up and burned with a bright red flame the as a tub of sulphur and burnt feather and the rown as billed with a thick pink sink of the fly off sneezed five times and as heteruned he me afters and he thought have not before the flat of the fl

thing t do w th thin is lik that

When there was n thin left in the bottle
Fyodor put th boots on the table and sank int
thou ht. H. leaned his hear head on his fist
and began thinking f his porty of his hard
life with no glumme of h ht n it. Then he

life with no glumme of h ht n it. Then he thought of the ch f th n b, houses and their carriages of th hundred roubl notes of the hundred rouble notes. If the series we have a subject of the houses of these rich men—th devil fly them l—were _mashed if the horses died if their fur co its and sable caps got habby! How splendad it would be if the ch I tile by littl changed int be_a ar- having in thing and h a poor shoemaker were to become rich and were to l d it o er some ther poor shoemak rou Christmass Eve

Dream "hk this Fv dor suddenly thought this w k and pen d his yes

THE SHOEMALEP AND THE DEVIL 301 Here's a go he thought looking at the

The 10b has been pm hed ever o long

ago and I go on sitting here I must tak the boots to the gentleman He wrapped up the v ork in a red handkerchief

put on his thing and vent out into the treet A fine hard snov vas falling pri king the face as though with needl's It vas old slippery dark the gas lamps burned durly and f r some reason there as a smell of paraff n in the street so that Tyodor cou hed and cleared he throat Rich men were dr vine to and fro on the road and every rich man had I am and a bottl of vodka in his hands. Pich your ladies pepel

at Tyodor out of the carria es and sledbes put out their tongues and shouted laughing Beggar ! Begg r !

Students off cers and merchants walked behind Fy dor seering at him and crying

Drunkard | Drunkar i | Infidel cobbler | Soul of a boot leg ! Beggar ! All this was insulting but Tyodor held his

tongue and only spat in disgust. But when huzma Lebyodkin from Warsaw a m ster boot maker met him and said. I ve married a rich woman and I have m n v orkin, und r me while you are a beggar and have noth n to eat Lyodor could not refrain from running after him He pursu d him t ll h found him elf in k lokolny I ane His custom r lived in the foirth hou e

from the corner on the very top flo r Fo reach him one had to go through a long dark courtyard and then to cl mb up a very high slippery stair

case which to tered under on a feet. When Frode wen in to him h was etting on the floor prending som him i. a morta, just as h had been th fortnaht be cre Your honour I has e brought your boots,

and Fundy nillens The call oner got up and berun true, on the but in alence Desiring to help him. Fyodor went d'un on one kere and pulled off his old boot bot as one jumped up as d staggered towards the down in horror. The cus orner had not a fore but a hoof like homes.

tha thought F sir here a go!" The ..r thm, hould have been to cross him-

self thin to lea e everyth.... a d run downstair bet h mmedately effected that h was meeting a deal f the fire and probably the last time, and not to take a vanily of his services would be for ... h H controlled himself and determined

to try has lack Cla. 107 has hands behind him t arold m.km, t. ion f th cross, he coughed respectf_Il a..d began

They as that they is nothing on earth more evil and mpure than to devil bu I am of the opinion, your bonor that the devil is highly educated. He has excess my savir to-hoof. and a tall behind but h has mor brains than mans a sudent

I has you fr wha you av ...d th devil. flat ered. Thene you hosmaker! What do tesw an

And without loss of tun th hoemaker began complaining of Lis lot. H began by sa mg the THE SHOEMAKER AND THE DEVIL 303

from hi childhood up he had envired the rich He had always resented it it at all reople did not live alike in bi_b houses and drive tilt good i orses Why he asked vas he poor? How was he vorse than huma Leby odhin from Warsay who had his own house and whose wife wore a hat? He had the same sort of hose the ame hand feet

than kuzma Lebyodkin from Warsan who had his own house and whose wife wore a hat? He had the same sort of nose the ame hand. feet head and back, as the rich and so why as he forced to work when others were enjoying, them selves? Why a a he married to Warsa and his selves? Why a he married to Warsa with the beautiful young ladies in thou es of rich cus tomers but they either took no notice of him whatever or else som times laughted and why pered to each other. What a red nose that shoemlake has! It vas true that Varya was a good kind hard vorking woman but she was n't educated

her hand vas heavy and hit hard and if one had occasion to speak of politics or anything intellectual before her she vould put her spoke in and talk the most awful n nsense.

What do y u vant then? his customer

interrupted him

I beg you your knoour Satan Ivanitch to be graciou ly pleased to make me a rich man Certainly Only fr that y u must give me up your soul! Before the cocks crow go and

up your soul! Before the cocks crow go and sign on this paper here that you give me up your soul.

Your known said Fyodor politely when

Your Fonour said Fyodor politely when you ordered a pair of boots from me I did not ask for the money in advance. One has first t carry out the ord r and then ask for payment

DUE TALES OF TCHERON

Oh ers well the eistemer a sented.
Alti thame dd rls flared up in the mostar pink the kinke came puff g out and there was mill flurnt feathers and sulphur. When the smik had ub ded Tyor rubbed hi yes

I saw that I wan I nger I sodor no lon er 1 1 maker but q t a c fferent man weari ...

a was totat and a teh chain in a new pair of

a wait tead and a tath a sitting it an arm-chair t bi, table Tw fortm is were handing him di hes bow 1 d vi h n r ar l may it do you cord

Whit walth The factor is handed him a b pice of at mutt and a d h f cucumbers and then brought in a man a construction and a little afters a l. b led po k ith horse-add h cream A d h.m drimned hor gented it all wa fived at an left re ach dish drank a bi glass f exc ll t when left re som gen ai rume count Mr th pork h was handed som boil d gran m ten d with goose it the nan omittee the scan fet then fired it er and he went on eat g and was d lighted What more. They served too a per thomion and teamed trup with kias.

Hos is it the gentry don't burst with such m als? he thon ht

In conclu n they handed him a big pot of h nes Afte dinner the des I appeared in blu spectacles and asked tha low bow

Are you satuf d with y u dinner I vodor Pant Ive tch?

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE DEVIL 305

But I yodor could not answer or word he was so stuffed after his dinner. The fe lin of repletion was unpleasant oppressive and to distract his thou hits he looked at the boxt on his left foot.

for a boot lke that lued it to take les than seven and a half rull's What loemaker made it? he a ked

Kuzma Lebyodkin an reith fotman

Send for him the fool

Kuzma L brodkin fr m Wa saw oon made

his appearance. He tiped in a respectful attitud at the door and a k d.

What are your riders y a hon ur?

Hill vir tingu t cried lyoder and

stamped li foot Dnt dare t argu re memb r your pt c as a bbir Blekhead't You don't kiw i to m ke boots 111 beat your ugly phiz t aj llv' Why h e you c me? To m ny

What money? Be fi! Cm on Saturday! By gi e him a ciff!

But he at one cealled the tailing the cust mers used to 1 ad he m to and 1 fit heavy at heart and to distract his attention he took. fat pocket book out of his pock t and began counting his money. There was a g at d all of money but Fyodo vanted more till. The devil in the blue spectacles brought him another in tebook, fatter still but he vanted wen me earlith more he counted it the me of discount till the me of discount till delegate.

In the evening the evil one brought him a fill bosom d lady in a red dress and said that this

was his new wife H spent the vhole evenin kissing h r and ating gingerbreads, and at ni ht h ent to bed on a soft downy feather bed turned from side to side and could not go to sleep

He felt uncanny

We have a great deal of money he said to wif we must look out or thieves will be breaki g in You had better go and look with a

candle He did n t sleep all night and kept getting up

t see if his box was all right. In the mornin, h had to go to hurch to matin In church the

sam honou d n t ri h and poor alike When

Fyodor as poor h used t pray n church like this God frgi e m a sinne! He said the same the now though he had become rich What diffe n as the? And aft r death

Food r n h would not be buried n gold n t in diamonds but n the same blak earth as the poo est beggar Fyod r would burn in the sam fir as cobblers Fyod esented all this and too h felt we hed down all over by his dinner and instead of p ave h had all sorts of thoughts

in his head about his box of money about theeses. about his bart ed runed soul H cam out f church in a b d t mper To drive away his unpleasant th ught as h had oft n done bef r h truck up a song at the top

of his ce But as soon as h began a policeman ran up and said with his fin, to the peak of his cap Your h n ur gentlef lk must n t sing in th

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE DEVIL .07

Fyodor leaned his back against a fence and ill to thinking what could he do to amuse himself?

Your honour a porter shouted to him don't lean against the fence you will spoil your fur coat! Fyodor went into a shop and bought himself

the very best concert; at then vent out into the street playing it Everybody pointed at him and laughed

And a gentleman too the cabmen jeered at him like some cobble

Is it the priper thing for gentlefolk to be disorderly in the street? a p liceman said to him. You had better go into a tayern!

Your honour give us a trifl for Christ's sake the beggars wailed surround ng Tyodor on all sides

In earlier days when he was a shoemaker the beggars took no otice of him now they wouldn't 1 t him pass

And at home hine v fe the lady was waiting for him dre sed in vigreen blouse and a red skirt. He meant to be attentive to hr and had just lited h arm to gie her a good clout on the lack but she said angrily.

Peasant! Ignorant lout! You don't kno v ho v to behav ith lad es! If you love me you will kiss my hand I don't allow you to b at me

This is a blasted exi tence! thought Tyodor Peopl do lead a life! Yo mustn't sing you mustn't play the concirtina you mustn't have a

lark with a lady Pfoo I

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H had n sooner sat down to tea vith the l dy when the evil spirit in the blue spectacles appeared and said

Come Tyod r Pant lyeitch I have perform d my part of the ba gain Now sign your paper and come along 1th me!

And h dragged Fyodor to hell st aight to the furn ce and devils flew up from all directions and shouted

Fool | Blockhead | Ass |

There was a fearful smell of paraffin in hell nough to suffocate one

And suddenly it all vanished Fyodor opened his eyes and sa his table the boots and the tin lamp The lamp-glass was black and from the faint light on the ck came clouds of stinking smok as from a h mn v hear the table stood the customer in the blu pectacles huting angrily

Fool! Blockhad! Ass! Ill give you a lesson y u scoundrel! Y u took the order a fortm ht ago and th boots ar n t r dy yet! Do y u s ppose I want to come trapesing round h re half a do n times a day f my boots? Youw tch! y u brut !

Fyodo hook his h ad and s t to w k on the boots Th t mer nt on swaring and threaten g him for a 1 ng time At last when h ubs ded Fyod r ask d sull nly

And what is your occ p t n sir?

I make B ngal lights and fi ew k I am a pyrotechn can They began ringi g fo mat n Fyodor gave

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the cu tors x the boots, took the money f r tl em and went to church

Carriages and ledges with bear kin rug were dashing to an I from the street in rehant I diesofficers wer valking along the palm nt together with the humbler folk But I vod r di I nof envy them nor repin at high the lit seemed to him now that rich and poor vere qually badly off Some were able t dri in a arriag and others to sing song at the top of the raice and to play the cone rtime but he and the same thing the same grave a avaitin all alike and there was n thing in life for which one vould give

the de il e en a tiny scrap I one s soul